

## GUST Independent School

1 Haldane Street  
Ashington, Northumberland NE63 8SF  
(01670) 850-943  
admin@getustartedtraining.org.uk



14th April 2020

Dear Parents, Carers and Students,

I am taking this time to wish everyone a Happy Easter and hope that you all are well and keeping safe in these unusual times. In this newsletter we have highlighted some key areas of importance. These have been divided into: Home Learning, Safeguarding, Online Safety, Domestic Violence and Abuse and School Contacts. Please take a few moments to read and digest the information.

### Home Learning

A huge **well done** to all students for how they are coping in their new classrooms! I understand that this has been a challenging time for parents and carers and that your children are unsettled and out of routines. Thank you for your feedback on how home learning has gone. We are now reflecting on this and will review the work set in order to make further improvements after Easter.

The DfE announced on 7th April that they had produced an initial ***list of online educational resources to help children to learn at home***. The DfE states that these websites have been identified by some of the country's leading educational experts and offer a wide range of support and resources for pupils of all ages.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-online-education-resources>

### Safeguarding

We will continue to contact every family on a daily basis to touch base and see how you are all getting on. If we cannot contact you via telephone call for a few days, key staff will make a home visit, in-line with our Children Missing Education policy, to make sure everything is OK. Staff will be following social distancing rules during all home visits.

While the school is closed, please do not phone the school office. To contact the school, please use our office email address: [admin@getustartedtraining.org.uk](mailto:admin@getustartedtraining.org.uk) in the first instance followed by our 'out of term time contact': 07944 128855. This number can be called during school closure.

If you need to report an **urgent** safeguarding concern - please do so by contacting **OneCall** on 01670 536-400.

## Online Safety

With home learning and coronavirus lockdown, students will be spending more time online. We have put information on our website to support parents, carers and students staying safe online in our Online Teaching, Learning and Continuity plan. Below are a number of useful websites.

- **Think you know** [www.thinkuknow.co.uk](http://www.thinkuknow.co.uk)

Thinkuknow is an education programme from the National Crime Agency's CEOP Command.

- **Get safe online** <https://www.getsafeonline.org>

A one stop shop for reliable up to date information about online safety.

- **Childnet** <https://www.childnet.com>

Childnet help make the internet a great and safe place for children.

- **Parent Info** <https://parentinfo.org>

Help and advice for families in a digital world.

- **BBC Own It App** <https://www.bbc.com/ownit>

The Own it app is part of the BBC's commitment to supporting young people in today's changing digital environment. It will provide a helping hand to your child when they receive their first smartphone, supporting their digital wellbeing, showing them how to make smarter and better informed choices and helping them grow into confident, positive and happy digital citizens.

## Domestic Abuse Against Parents and Carers

The Police and Crime Commissioner's Violence Reduction Unit have funded the production of a leaflet to inform families about Adolescent-to-Parent Violence and Abuse and this can be found on the [Northumberland County Council Domestic Abuse](#) webpage.

## Domestic Violence and Abuse

Our local Domestic Abuse Coordinator, Lesley Pyle, has continued to keep the NCC page updated with resources as the evidence locally and nationally indicates that rates of domestic violence are increasing.

The most recent guidance includes the following links and resources:

- [Women's Aid practical safety advice for survivors](#)

- [SafeLives advice and information for survivors, professionals and policymakers](#)
- [Galop National LGBT+ Domestic Abuse Helpline](#)
- [Men's Advice Line](#)

### **Contacting the School**

As mentioned earlier, the school office number will be unavailable whilst GUST is closed. You can contact the school via email using the office email address: [admin@getustartedtraining.org.uk](mailto:admin@getustartedtraining.org.uk).

For primary enquiries you can contact Abby and Matt directly via email on [abby@getustartedtraining.org.uk](mailto:abby@getustartedtraining.org.uk) & [mattm@getustartedtraining.org.uk](mailto:mattm@getustartedtraining.org.uk) respectively.

For secondary enquiries you can contact Dan on [dan@getustartedtraining.org.uk](mailto:dan@getustartedtraining.org.uk).

Yours Sincerely,

**Karen Gibb**

**Headteacher**



**STAY HOME**

**STAY SAFE**