



17th October 2013

Dear Parents and Carers,

Changes to our Enhanced Learning Provision (ELP)

You will have realised by now that big changes have already taken place at Applegarth's Enhanced Learning Provision and I am writing to let you know of the other exciting changes that are due to take place over the next few months.

A number of Croydon's Enhanced Learning Provisions have moved across from Local Authority Management and are now directly led and managed by the school in which they are located; this is about to happen at Applegarth and means that the responsibility for the centre, its staff, children and the quality of provision rests with the Applegarth and the STEP Academy Trust rather than Croydon.

When does this transfer take place?

We hope that the transfer from Croydon to us will take place at the start of November 2013.

What about the staff?

The staff will transfer across too; there will be no changes and your child's teacher and support assistant will remain the same.

Why has the provision been moved to the school 'House'?

As part of the transfer agreement, the STEP Academy Trust insisted on the building being 'fit for purpose' and so a £500,000 re-development of the provision is about to commence – funded by Croydon. The centre was previously based in one large room within the school building and within this room there were up to 8 adults at any one time supporting 18 children of varying ages from 4 to 11– all with complex needs. The quality of provision clearly needed to change and so, we have moved temporarily into the 'house' whilst we wait for an extension to be completed. The house has been completely refurbished and provides three separate learning bases which more effectively meets the needs of the children. Whilst a little cramped, the staff have worked tirelessly to make

this temporary provision the very best it can be and we have already seen positive improvements to the quality of teaching and learning.

When will the building work be completed?

We hope that by the start of the Summer term (2014) the children and staff will have moved into their fantastic new building which will consist of three large classrooms, toilet facilities, meeting rooms and a therapy room.

Who will be the Manager of the Enhanced Learning Provision?

Once the ELP has been transferred to Applegarth Academy, our Inclusion Manager – Sue Brackenbury, will become the Manager of the provision. Sue is a highly experienced member of the Applegarth Leadership Team and her role as Inclusion Manager for our whole school means that the needs and progress of the children attending the ELP will remain at the forefront of our minds at all times. The temporary managers of the ELP (Lisa Makin and Mel Blake) are looking forward to working with Sue once the transfer has been completed; they have been instrumental in improving the quality of this provision throughout this time of change.

Can I come and visit?

We'd love you to come and visit the provision at any time – please make an appointment with your child's teacher. Once our new building has been completed, we will have an opening ceremony, to which you will all be invited!

Change can be daunting if things are not clear and so I hope that this letter has provided you with a little more insight into the changes that lie ahead and the reasons behind them. I have every confidence that our Enhanced Learning Provision will soon become an outstanding provision for our young people and am proud to be part of this journey.

Yours sincerely,

Zoe Harris

Headteacher

