

The Island Project School

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Serving the needs of children with autism and related communication disorders in Warwickshire & the West Midlands

30th July 2014

To all parents and carers

HS2

As you may be aware, the new HS2 line comes close to the School grounds. Over the past 18 months, the School has been negotiating with HS2 to ensure that they understand the impact on the School and its pupils

As I am sure you can appreciate this has been a long and protracted process which has taken an awful lot of our time and energy. We had hoped that this would avoid us having to formally Petition and appear before the Select Committee later this year, but sadly this has not been the case.

At the most recent meeting which took place during the holidays, and which included 8 experts attending on behalf of HS2, it became evident that despite assurances from HS2 that they would be able to mitigate against the impact of construction, this was not the case. We believe that in reality there will be a significant impact across many areas.

The areas of concerns we have raised are noise from construction; construction traffic, road closures and diversions impacting journey times; access; air quality; visual disturbance and flooding. More detail can be found within our Petition and we have numerous reports and documents which we will be loading onto the website in due course.

The Petition can be found at <http://www.publications.parliament.uk/pa/cmhs2/petitions/1495.pdf>

We now intend to actively raise the profile of the issues facing the School at the same time as continuing with the formal process of negotiation with HS2

It is at this point that we would like to ask for your help and support. This can be done in a number of ways, such as writing to your MP or writing directly to HS2 marked for the attention of Donovan Bailey or Rachael Johnson. Given the complexity of the pupils, and the importance of us maintaining a healthy environment you should explain how you believe potential effects will impact on your child and their education. The potential for travel delays, increased journey times and difficulty in general access is one of the significant points we have raised and is one of our greatest concerns. If you believe that this is a concern to you, please make sure you include this in your letter.

If you could send us copies of any letters you do write, it would be really helpful for us going forwards.

We are planning to have an open evening to share the details with you and give you an opportunity to discuss it further. Details of this will follow shortly.

In the meantime, you may notice posters and banners appearing around the School area, especially in advance of the visit by the Select Committee to the local area next week.

Obviously we do not want the children to be worried and for those pupils for whom it is appropriate, we will be doing some work around community issues including HS2 and the School, thus explaining anything they may see or hear.

Please rest assured that in true Island Project style, we are putting the children's interests first and will not stop until we have secured an appropriate resolution on our terms.

Kind regards

Yours sincerely

Jacqui Walters-Hutton
School Principal