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Trainee teachers sticking to timetable



The trainee teachers are continuing with their assignments and working remotely to keep on track with their programme

TRAINEE teachers are learning to be resourceful and resilient as they continue their training during the school closures. A group of trainee teachers working at BMAT primary and secondary schools in Harlow, Epping and Stansted are on track to complete their training by July. Donna Walsh, BMAT Teaching School director, and Sian Cockman

assistant head for Teaching School, have brought the group together on Microsoft Teams video calls to provide support and to enable the trainees to socialise with their colleagues and share ideas for remote learning. The trainee teachers are continuing with their assignments and working remotely to keep on track with their programme.

Mrs Walsh said: "Normally, our trainees would be teaching a lot in class at the moment, so we are having to be flexible and think outside the box to ensure they still get the pedagogical and subject training they need. Many of them are on the rota to go into their school, so they are spending as much time with children in the classroom as is possible."

Advisor has 'no need' to apologise

PM backs top aide despite calls for resignation

By Jessie Mathewson

DOMINIC Cummings acted as any parent would by taking his family from London to Durham during the coronavirus lockdown, a leading London politician has said.

London Assembly Conservative leader Susan Hall claims the "left wing media" are focusing on the Number Ten advisor because he is the "architect of Brexit" and they want him to resign.

Boris Johnson's top aide drove 260 miles to his parents' home in County Durham after his wife became ill in late March.

His actions have split the Conservative party, with several backbench Tory MPs calling on him to step down, and Government minister Douglas Ross quitting in protest.

More than 70 per cent of Brits think Mr Cummings broke lockdown – and 59 per cent believe he should resign, according to a YouGov poll.

But speaking to the Local Democracy Service, Ms Hall said anyone using the story as an



Dominic Cummings
Photo: Jonathan Brady/PA Wire

excuse to break lockdown is "pathetic".

Mr Cummings claims he travelled to Durham because he was worried about looking after his four-year-old son if both he and his wife became seriously unwell.

The Number Ten advisor says he self-isolated while staying at his parents' property – and does

not regret his decision to travel across the country during lockdown.

And he admits making a 30-mile trip from the cottage he was staying in to tourist spot Barnard Castle on his wife's birthday.

But he claims the drive was to test his eyesight – which he believed had been affected by the virus – before attempting the drive back to London.

Ms Hall said today that having listened to the aide's explanation, there is no need for Mr Cummings to say sorry.

Everyone except key workers were ordered to stay home on March 23 – and at the time of Mr Cummings' trip, Government ministers said no one should make journeys far from where they live.

But speaking at a press briefing at Downing Street this week, the top aide said there was leeway given in the Government advice for "extreme" circumstances.

The Prime Minister has also backed his advisor, saying he acted "reasonably" and with "integrity and care for others".