

Monday 11th May 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

I do hope you and your families are well, and you had a restful bank holiday weekend.

I am sure that many of you, like me, will have sat around the television watching the Prime Minister outline what the next steps forward are for the country last night.

While a great deal will be debated and discussed over the coming days, and a number of questions were left unanswered, Boris Johnson did give an indication of what the Government is proposing for the re-opening of schools.

He stated, if all continues to go well in keeping the spread of Coronavirus down, that:

- Primary schools could begin to reopen from June 1 2020 for children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 6.
- There is an ambition that secondary students taking their exams next year will have “some face-to-face time” with their teachers before the summer break. Again, this will only happen if certain criteria regarding the Coronavirus are met. At this stage, it is not wholly clear if this is both GCSE and A-Level/BTEC students.

We are all acutely aware that some people will welcome this news, others may understandably feel more uneasy or uncomfortable as we slowly return to some level of normality. However you feel, I have no doubt that you will have a significant number of questions.

All I can say at this point is that we heard this news at the same time as you last night. We expect that all aspects of yesterday’s announcement will be discussed in detail over the next few days in Parliament, and then the education aspects considered by the Department for Education (DfE). At this point we are then likely to get some official guidance from the DfE about the practicalities of what all of this mean for schools and, most importantly, your children.

Until that point, it would be wrong for us to speculate on what our response is as a trust. There is going to be more than enough comment and discussion in papers over the coming days - and we simply don’t want to add to the confusion. In the meantime we will continue to provide the care and support to our students and their families as we have been since the start of this pandemic, and we will continue to seek opportunities to expand this support further.

So, please be assured that we will let you know what the next steps are as soon as we have a clear indication of the where we go from here from the DfE. While we can’t give you any detail at this stage, just know that we will work together to support you, your children and our staff through the coming weeks and months.

Until that point, please don’t worry. We will work out the right approach for our community when more detail is given.

Thank you once again for all your support over recent weeks. It has been heartening to see all that has been achieved.

Stay healthy and well.



David Clayton
Chief Executive