

Monday 1st June 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope that you all continue to be safe and well.

As promised, I am writing to provide you with an update on the Trust's response to the most recent Government announcements, and what this means for your child's school.

Since we last spoke, two key things have happened with regards to education. Firstly, the Prime Minister updated the country on the Government's intention that secondary schools should begin providing "some face-to-face contact" to students in years ten and twelve from 15th June. Secondly, the Department for Education published its guidance to secondary schools last Monday.

All of our schools share an ambition to welcome all of our students back to school as soon as possible. However, I know that you will also share our determination to ensure that any wider opening of our schools is safe, and in the best interests of our communities.

As a result, we welcome the decision to delay the wider opening of our schools until 15th June. As we have made explicitly clear throughout this period, we will not open our schools more widely until we are confident that we have the measures in place to ensure it is safe to do so. At this stage, we are confident that this can be achieved by 15th June, and as a result we are continuing to take steps to ensure we are prepared.

As has been the case from the outset, we will take a cautious and measured approach to developing our plan for our students in years ten and twelve. For students in other year groups, unfortunately it is highly unlikely that Government guidance will allow for a return any time before September. We will, of course, keep you updated as and when this situation changes.

I will write to you on Friday to provide full details of our plans for students in years ten and twelve, and your child's school will then be in touch next week to provide more specific information. Please be assured that we will continue to work supportively with our parents, carers and communities during this period and our staff will be happy to discuss any concerns that you might have. We know that, for those students that do return to school, some may find it difficult to adapt to the new routines. However, whilst the routines will be new and the building will look different, our schools will continue to focus on providing the highest quality of support to our students.

In the meantime, please remember that our schools continue to make provision for vulnerable students and the children of key workers, and these arrangements will continue as normal. We would encourage all eligible students to attend school if they are able.

We will continue to focus on developing the quality of home learning provision, as it is now apparent that this will be a feature of schooling for some time to come. Please continue to support your child(ren) in accessing the wide range of resources that our schools are providing, and don't hesitate to contact your school if you need any additional support with this.

Finally, I want to take this opportunity to thank you once again for your continued support during these difficult times. I have seen a number of messages and social media posts from parents recognising the work our schools are doing. Your kind words really do make a huge difference.

I look forward to writing to you again on Friday.

Very best wishes

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'DCL', with a stylized flourish at the end.

David Clayton
Chief Executive