

DHO/NBA

22<sup>nd</sup> May 2020

Dear Parents/Carers

Firstly, I would like to thank you all for your continued support and understanding in these testing times. It has been wonderful in such circumstances, to see the 'togetherness' of our communities and the engagement we have seen in learning, be it online or paper at home, or through the keyworker provision in school. Across our communities, there has been a real sense of pulling together and it has been heart-warming to see the videos, pictures and variety of work that has been produced by our children and young people.

I am writing to update parents and carers about our response as a Trust to the government's announcement that, subject to their five tests, schools will be able to widen the number of children attending in a really limited sense (Foundation Stage, year 1 and year 6), from 1<sup>st</sup> June at the earliest. Obviously, we are working hard to put plans in place to welcome more children into the building; however, I am sure you will agree that it is important that we do this in a carefully planned, managed way which protects parents, staff and most importantly, our children.

Each academy will be further refining their detailed plans for the wider operation of our schools over the half term period and we will communicate these to you early next half term. However, it is worth noting that we will not receive final notification of the government's decision on reopening schools until Friday 28<sup>th</sup> May 2020, making the planning for provision in the first week after half term particularly challenging. This means that we will not be opening for any children beyond those currently eligible for the keyworker provision during the week beginning Monday 1<sup>st</sup> June 2020.

When we do welcome more children into the academy, this will be in a staged way, increasing the numbers of children over a number of days and weeks. At this time, we are unsure of start and finish times for the school day but recognise that different groups of children will need to arrive and leave at different times to ensure that we meet the social distancing guidelines. In addition, we plan to arrange the young people attending in groups of no more than eight in each classroom, which will limit the number of children that we can accommodate in the academy at one time. Please be reassured that we will be placing the health and safety of all our staff and young people at the heart of all we do.

In order to ensure that you have time to make any additional childcare arrangements, we will make sure that families have at least one week's notice of their child being able to come into school. Once we are in a position to confirm the final arrangements with families we will ask you to indicate whether you will be taking up this offer of provision in the school.

I will write to you with the specific details in the next two weeks. In the meantime, please keep yourselves and your families safe and well.

Yours sincerely



David Horrigan  
Executive Principal (Primary)