



East Dale Road
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5 June 2020

Dear Parent/Carer

I hope you are well and managed to enjoy some sunshine while we had it! I want to update you again on where we are in terms of more students coming back into schools. Our overriding concern is how to open to more students in line with the government's plans in a way that minimises health risks to students, staff and families and supports efforts to prevent further localised outbreaks of COVID-19.

As I said to you on Friday 22 May, there are four sets of information we expected to be able to see so that we are in a position to plan to bring more students back safely:

- Specific guidance from the Department for Education for primary schools
- Specific guidance from the Department for Education for secondary schools
- The evidence that the Scientific Advisory Group for Emergencies (SAGE) has used in considering the issue for schools
- Information on local rates of infection

We have now received 3 of these 4 sets of information but have been given some information on local rates of infection. Given the significant differences in infection rates across the country, this is particularly important information. We have worked very closely with the East Riding of Yorkshire and Hull City Council to understand the local picture and we are grateful for all the work they have done in this area. We are now in a position where we believe we are able to put appropriate measures in place to begin to bring back limited numbers of secondary students, in a staggered way, beginning on Monday 15 June.

In secondaries, the government has asked schools **“to offer some face-to-face support for year 10 and year 12”** and to ensure that no more than 25% of a year group are on site at any one time. We will invite groups of students on specific days and they will have input from teachers in core subjects for year 10 and options subjects for year 12 and will have support with their remote school work. The government has no plans to bring any other year groups in before the summer holiday.

We have developed a very detailed risk assessment process at trust and school level, and have put a wide range of control measures in place to minimise risk to students, staff and the community. In line with government guidance, we will operate around the principles of “pods” of students who will remain separate throughout the day from other pods. Some teaching staff will rotate around these pods to facilitate specialist teaching - whilst maintaining strict social distancing throughout - in line with government guidance for secondary schools. Start times, finish times and break-times will be staggered and a range of



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additional hygiene measures will be put in place. Further details will be sent to year 10 and year 12 parents early next week.

Please be aware that all schools have seen a very significant increase in the number of children of critical workers who are coming into school. We continue to welcome them warmly but with the increase in numbers over the next few weeks and the need for detailed planning and new arrangements, we ask critical workers to give us as much notice as possible about which days they need. While we will continue to try to accommodate late changes to shifts, please be aware that this will be more difficult than it has been previously.

By the end of this term, most students across the country will have been at home for 14 weeks and we do not yet know how things will look in September in terms of the spread of COVID-19. As we have said all along, we will work hard whenever students return more fully to fill any gaps in learning that have appeared. We are working really hard to continue to get better at teaching remotely and providing the best possible work and interaction with students when they are not on site. We are acting upon the feedback we are receiving from parents and staff, and are seeking to ensure that students have regular access to the most successful solutions we can find for remote learning. This does not mean we will be moving to a full timetable of "live" lessons but that we will make best use of platforms such as Microsoft Teams and Google Classrooms so that students can access more video content from teachers in our schools and more interactive opportunities for hearing clear explanations, asking questions, submitting their work and receiving useful feedback on their work. We are working on all of the many significant issues around IT and internet access that many of our students experience and staff are continuing to engage with training to ensure our use of these platforms is as effective as possible for all students. More information on this will follow soon.

Please rest assured that we are working very hard to manage this next stage as sensibly and safely as we can and will keep you fully informed about the decisions we are making and the reasons behind those decisions. As I have said before, if we don't always get everything right, please know that we are trying our very best and will always put safety above all else. I remain enormously grateful for everything our staff are doing and for the continued support of parents and carers.

If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact the school and we will do our very best to answer them.



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As ever, I am sending my best wishes to you and your families.

Yours faithfully

Jonny Uttley
CEO



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