11 May 2020

Dear Parent / Carer,

Following the announcement by the Prime Minister last night we are now clearer about the direction of travel of the national government. The timing though is conditional on the scientific and medical advice the government receives; in particular, the R (Infection) rate of the virus both locally and nationally.

Detailed Department for Education advice has yet to be published and we do not want parents / carers to assume that the 1 June 2020 is a date set in stone for a return to school for larger groups of students.

As you will be aware, the Trust has remained open to all children whose parents / carers are deemed by government to be ‘Critical Key Workers’ and also to those children identified as being ‘vulnerable’ again, as defined by government guidance, The Trust will continue to open the provision for Years 5 and above at the Hinde House Secondary site and for Years 4 and below at the Hinde House Primary site until further notice.

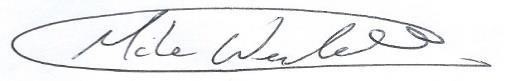
It is clear that to open more widely needs to have the Health and Safety of pupils, students, staff and parents/carers at its heart and with this in mind, preliminary discussions are now starting with academy leadership teams and the Local Authority as to how we open more widely for when a decision is definitively agreed by national and local government. However, again I must emphasise this may be later than 1 June 2020.

If recent media is to be believed, the hot weather over the past weekend alongside street parties and VE day celebrations could have already led to a reduction in social distancing and consequently this could lead to an increased R rate before any planned increase in provision is realised.

We thank you for your continued support. As a Trust we will continue to communicate with you both directly and through your respective Academy Principals and emphasise that when we do open more widely, measures will be put in place to safeguard pupils, staff and parents / carers in line with government guidance.

Please continue to stay safe, stay alert and control the virus by staying at home as much as possible.

Yours faithfully,



Mike Westerdale

Chief Executive Officer