

Dear Parents, Guardians, Carers, Children and Young People,

I hope that you have all managed to have a break over this summer period, and a time away from all things 'school-related'. I hope also that whatever you have been doing you have stayed safe and well. For those of you with children involved in A-Levels, GCSEs and BTECs – our thoughts have been with you all throughout this period of time. We hope that you are all ok, and that the final outcomes have been fair and reflective of your children and what they need to move on to the next steps in their personal journey.

At the end of term I set out a timeline of communication, and promised that I would write on 28<sup>th</sup> August to confirm what the opening plans are for all of our schools, and to set out how we will be working during the next two short terms.

A lot has changed since I last wrote to you. Lockdown has been increasingly lifted in some areas, and not so much in others. The guidance for schools has similarly changed in some respects, but not in others, though the consistency remains in the Government's message that schools will re-open as planned in September, and for all children and young people.

For our Trust this means that we will be opening all our school sites in the way that your school will have already indicated to you **from 1<sup>st</sup> September**. Next week, all of our schools will be investing valuable time into essential staff training and development and also welcoming key groups of children and young people to school in order that they are ready for learning.

On **Monday 7<sup>th</sup> September** all children and young people will be returning to school, as planned and will be engaged in our recovery curriculum. This is so that we can ensure that we have a really good understanding of where their learning is, on an individual basis, in order that we can best plan for their learning journey over the forthcoming year. To explain the approaches we will be taking, and why we need to take this approach, Jane Thomas - one of our School Improvement Partners, has prepared a short video for you so that you can gain a clear understanding of what we will be doing in our schools as we support the children and young people in our care back into school-life following an extended period of being away.

The video can be found on our new YouTube Channel, and on this link. <https://youtu.be/DoabH1ddJcG>

We have carefully assessed our opening plans and risk assessments, and it remains that only some of our schools will be in a position to offer Wrap-around-care, and/or Breakfast Clubs, based on strict risk assessment and ensuring safety of the provision. Your school will advise you if it is possible for these to run at this time. We will ensure that you are regularly updated as we do start to open the Wrap-around-care and Breakfast Club provisions from September, where possible. **There will not be any school-run extra-curricular, after-school clubs running on our return, and we will continue to risk assess these in order to judge when we can restart them too.**

We have taken the decision to start small, and to be consistent – to open what we know we can safely in relation to our schools, and then to review in two-weekly blocks to see if our position needs to, and is able to change. This way we can assess and check our ways of working carefully to ensure the highest levels of care and safety are in place **consistently** before we seek to further open our provision.

We are also aware of, and planning for, the possibilities of 'local lockdown' or the isolation of groups where there are suspected/confirmed cases of Corona Virus across the Trust. We will be guided by Public Health England and

each Local Authority and will take decisions on whether to close some provision to ensure the safety of everyone involved if we are required to do so. Where we are advised to close a bubble for a period of time, **online learning** will be available from the day following the closure for all pupils affected. We have been advised that even in a local lockdown there may not be an expectation of school closures, but there may be an impact on additional provision such as school transport, breakfast and after-school clubs where they are running. We will keep you informed of any changes and adaptations that we will need to make to the ways that we work.

Lastly, and most importantly, we are all really looking forward to being able to bring everyone back to school and back into the exciting opportunities for learning that we have planned for this year. It is all going to look and feel a bit different, but our staff have been working tirelessly to explore different ways to bring learning alive, and to innovate where we've needed to change our approaches. We have a lot planned for the forthcoming year and are excited to be able to be working directly with all our children and young people in our school environments.

My thanks, as ever, for your continued support, and we look forward to welcoming you all back (in a socially distanced manner) over the forthcoming weeks. I hope that you have a good bank holiday weekend.

With kind regards,

*Jez Piper*

**CEO**

**Diocese of Bristol Academies Trust**

**Flowchart for parents: what to do if someone has symptoms of COVID-19**

