



Friday 25th June, 2021

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

I wanted to start by thanking you all for your support for our schools and for your resilience throughout this year and term as we have slowly started the journey out of the Covid restrictions.

I appreciate that it hasn't been an easy path and we have been continuing to work with bubble closures, and some element of self-isolation in many of our schools; but we are seeing the positive impact of the measures that we have all taken, together, and I am hopeful that we will be able to continue to 'open up' and to return to some of our previously 'normal' ways of working before the end of the school year.

We have taken an appropriately cautious approach to opening up the opportunities that we can offer in our schools, and each school has been able to risk assess and judge what is most appropriate for its own school and local community. We have continued to follow the national and local public health guidance so that we can both reflect the expectations on the schools nationally, and to meet the needs of the local areas also. You will have heard that the Government remains tentatively on course now for the complete release of lockdown restrictions from 19th July, and therefore we will continue to work to that same timeline. We are aware that, in relation to the expectation on schools, some restrictions may remain until later in the year.

The Department for Education has recently sent out advice in relation to sports days, open days, transitional and leavers events to schools. The Trust recognises the impact of Covid-19 on our pupils, employees, families and other people affected by our activities. Each school has to complete a thorough risk assessment before running these events and they have to be run in line with government guidance, this may mean that some activities are unlikely to be possible or will have to run differently to how they have done previously. Large indoor events are not permitted and for outdoor events children need to be kept separately in their individual groups or bubbles and any parents attending outdoor events must adhere to social distancing requirements and only gather in groups of 30 or less although multiple groups of 30 are permitted where appropriate and possible in line with the Covid guidance and restrictions.

Over the forthcoming weeks your child(ren)'s school will keep you informed of the activities that they are able to undertake as we step out of the lockdown. Not all schools will be able to work in the same way and so you will hear directly from the schools as to what is possible at each stage of the remainder of this academic year. We ask your continued support for the difficult decisions that the schools will be making in the interests of safety for everyone. Thank you.

We are currently reviewing the changes that we have had to make during Covid to see if there have been any approaches that would be beneficial for us to continue to use as part of our new approach to school and learning. As we identify these later in the year we will be writing to you all and asking for your feedback and thoughts in order that we can begin to work more effectively in collaboration.

To further support this, and in response to requests from some of you, we will be setting up a series of informal opportunities for you to meet with members of the Trust's Central Team and some

Trustees, along with some of our school teams in the Autumn Terms. We want to foster a much closer relationship with all our families and communities, and we understand from the correspondence that I and the Trust have received that our families want to play a part in the development of the Trust for the best of the children and young people, and the schools. We will let you know when we are able to do this and look forward to meeting with you.

We will continue to keep you up-to-date with the lifting of restrictions and the next steps for us all in the preparations for coming back in September.

Take care and keep safe, and well.

With kind regards,

Jez Piper

CEO

Diocese of Bristol Academies Trust