

Monday 15<sup>th</sup> June 2020

Dear Parent/Carer,

**RE: Arrangements for the Expansion of Opening**

The Secretary of State for Education last week reversed the government's aim for all Primary-aged children to be back in school before the summer holidays and said that the full opening of schools from September cannot be guaranteed.

I write on behalf of the Trust to keep you updated with our plans for expanding opening in schools. Our planning addresses the organisational and safety challenges associated with wider opening now and after the School Summer Holidays in September, assuming that Social Distancing measures remain government policy. I write now to inform any longer-term arrangements that you may want/ need to make. Were changes in Social Distancing Policy announced, our plans would be adapted accordingly and would be immediately communicated with you.

The Chief Medical Officer for England has stated that Social Distancing measures are likely needed until at least the end of this calendar year. This will have significant impact on the number of children/young people in schools. Quite simply, our schools do not have the space to accommodate everybody at the same time while Social Distancing measures are in place. And, alas, the British weather is not reliable enough to plan for 50% of students to be outside at all times.

**Plans** - We are actively risk assessing the various options for wider opening, beyond those arrangements for the next few weeks that have already been communicated to you. It is absolutely our aim to welcome as many of our children back as soon as we possibly and safely can. Options under consideration at this time for September opening include:

- Two or three days full provision each week, supported with offsite and virtual learning
- Groups being capped at 50% capacity
- Provision for those children identified by the school and the children of Key Workers will remain as current.

**Buildings** - Sevenhills building work has begun today. The £500,000 investment will see new boilers and heating system, new carpets, complete redecoration, upgrade of toilet/welfare facilities, new lighting and electrics and more usable external space. The estates team are confident this will be delivered for early September and we are all excited about returning to a fresh new school. I will keep you posted with any updates as I get them.

**Summer** - There has been lots of talk about students attending catch up Summer school. This is not something we are asking of our staff, who are not contracted to work and who deserve a break to do. However, we are exploring measures that will support young people with their transition to college.

Thank you for bearing with us, through these very difficult times. Much uncertainty remains. Rest assured, we are doing everything in our power to help the situation. We will keep you informed of any developments as they happen.

Yours sincerely



Phil Hutchinson  
Executive Principal



Mark Wilson  
Chief Executive Officer