

11th May 2020

Dear Staff, Governors and Parents / Carers,

A message from the Trust about the possible reopening of schools

It is just over a month since we last wrote, and shared with you the learning activities being undertaken by Trust pupils at home and in school, acknowledging the outstanding team effort that had made this possible, despite the many personal challenges the pandemic presented. School, in its various guises has continued and we have all become arguably more accustomed to a new 'norm' both in respect to this, as well as in our wider lives.

Thank you again for all your efforts in supporting members of the school community, in whatever capacity, during this period and helping pupils to continue with their learning. Please do not hesitate to get in contact with school if there is anything further we can do to support you or if there is anything you feel we need to know.

Last night the Prime Minister made his announcement about the road map and the easing of the restrictions we have been living with since lockdown, including the reopening of schools. Whilst I am sure we welcome the sense that things might now be starting to return to what we were used to before Covid-19, understandably there is considerable anxiety about the implications of this decision.

What is important to note at this stage is that this is just an announcement; there is still a lot of detail that needs to be shared and once this has happened, the Trust and its schools will be able to draft in-depth plans for the reopening. In the meantime Dales' schools will remain open for vulnerable pupils and the children of key workers and arrangements associated with this will stay the same.

We all welcome the prospect of our pupils re-engaging with their studies but in order for this to happen we must have in place, robust plans, protocols and procedures to ensure that our schools are safe places for pupils and staff. When, and only when we are confident that they are, and that we can give assurances to the whole school community of the same, we will open our gates to additional staff and pupils.

As has been the case throughout school closure, your Headteacher will keep you informed of developments.

Best wishes,



Damian Chubb
CEO

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