2nd June 2020

Dear Parent/Carer

Widening the opening of our secondary schools

Following the government's decision that secondary schools should begin some face to face provision for years 10 and 12 from June 15th, I am writing to update you with our trust's position.

Each school is planning carefully for this and we are producing detailed risk assessments for each site and school setting. These will be scrutinised by the Trust Board on Tuesday 9th June and trustees will make the final decision for each school based on their analysis of the risk assessments. The decision for your child's school and the detailed information about the wider re-opening will be emailed to you on Wednesday 10th June. The detailed risk assessments will also be available to view on the trust's website from Wednesday 10th June onwards.

Our plans are very thorough and based upon the hierarchy of controls the government has asked school to focus on to help control the spread of coronavirus. These are:

- *Controlling the transmission of the disease*: minimising contact with children and adults who are unwell by ensuring that those who have coronavirus symptoms, or who have someone in their household who does, do not attend school.

- *Management and control through personal hygiene*: cleaning hands more often than usual - wash hands thoroughly for 20 seconds with running water and soap and dry them thoroughly or use alcohol hand rub or sanitiser ensuring that all parts of the hands are covered.

- *Ensuring good respiratory hygiene*: promoting the 'catch it, bin it, kill it' approach

- *Enhanced cleaning regimes*: cleaning frequently touched surfaces often using standard products, such as detergents and bleach.

- *Minimising contact and mixing*: altering, as much as possible, the environment (such as classroom layout) and timetables (such as staggered break times).

Remote learning will remain the main vehicle for curriculum delivery in all year groups. We anticipate that Year 12 will not attend school and will have 'face to face' contact through the use of virtual platforms, with some lessons delivered 'live' by their teacher. We expect that small groups of y10 pupils will be asked to come into school, with a total number each day of no more than the government maximum of 25% of the year group. We are planning for pupils in y10 to be taught in small groups of no more than 10 and expect them to practice social distancing at all times. Staff will

not routinely be using PPE, with the exception of those carrying out first aid or looking after a pupil who is isolated because they are unwell.

The provision for key worker and vulnerable children will continue and will be full time, Monday to Friday, 9am – 3pm.

The confirmation letter you will receive on Wednesday 10th June, outlining the individual school approach, will include a link to a form asking you to indicate whether you will be sending your son/daughter back to school when they are requested to attend. I hope you will be re-assured by the level of detail you will receive and by the amount of thought, planning and preparation that has gone into widening our provision.

We are pleased to be in a position where we can start to bring some pupils back into school and begin getting back to some sense of normality. Children and young people need to be in school and as a society we need to shift the emphasis towards how we live with the virus, finding new ways of operating that are sustainable and scalable. Schools have received a considerable amount of guidance and advice on how to do this and our trustees will make the decision on whether each school is ready to open wider based on this advice and on a detailed and rigorous risk assessment process.

We will be in contact next Wednesday to let you know the outcome for your child's school but, in the meantime, please accept my thanks once again for your continued support.

Yours sincerely,

Andrea Arlidge
Chief Executive