



In Partnership to Educate, Nurture & Empower

Abbey Multi Academy Trust

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Co-CEO: Mrs Helen Pratten
Co-CEO: Ms Catherine Garrett

18th May 2020

Dear Parents and Carers

We hope that this communication continues to find you and your family safe and well during what continues to be a massively challenging time for us all.

You will be aware from the Government announcements last week that a phased return is planned for primary schools from 1st June and face-to-face support for students in years 10 and 12 to supplement remote learning opportunities. In addition, it continues to be an expectation that schools will continue to provide full-time provision for vulnerable children and the children of key workers. The key purpose of expanding provision within Government guidelines is to support the communities we serve.

Headteachers in our academies wrote to you last week to let you know that we are starting to plan for the re-opening of schools for identified year groups. The government has asked us to consider younger year groups (nursery, reception and year 1) followed by year 6 if they can be safely accommodated. Additional information concerning safeguarding, health and safety and other planning documents intended to support schools in re-opening were published at various points last week which we are using to inform our planning in individual academies and across the Trust as a whole. Documentation relating to the re-opening of secondary schools for identified cohorts has not yet been published.

Although the implementation of plans for the return of some groups of pupils -excepting the provision for the children of key workers and vulnerable groups - may differ from academy to academy depending on their own context, we would like to reassure you that in all cases, the safety of our children and staff will be our highest priority and inform our decision making. We will only open our schools if we are fully confident that we can keep our children and our staff safe with increased numbers in our buildings. Detailed and comprehensive risk assessments will be undertaken prior to re-opening for identified cohorts of children and these plans will be rigorously scrutinised by the Executive Leaders, local governing bodies and the Trust Board. Once this process has been completed, your academy's Headteacher will contact you to provide details of how the phased return will work.

We accept that each family's individual circumstances are different and that some parents/carers may be reluctant to send their child back to school if, for example, another family member's health may be compromised as a result. Please be reassured that we remain committed to supporting the education of all our pupils irrespective of whether that is at school or home and as such, remote learning will continue.

Continued



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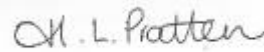
After half-term we will continue to provide free school meal vouchers, hampers or grab bags for those who are eligible and when reception and year 1 children return to school they will have the option of a free meal at school under the universal infant free school meals policy. We await further information from the Government on the previously promised laptop scheme for year 10 pupils.

We look forward to welcoming back our pupils when we are confident that it is safe to do so.

Yours sincerely



Catherine Garrett
Co-CEO



Helen Pratten
Co-CEO