



HOWDEN SCHOOL

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Headteacher: Mr G Cannon

22 May 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

As you know, our academies have been open throughout the period of lockdown for the children and young people of key workers as well as vulnerable groups. This provision has been well received and effective measures have been taken in every school to minimise risk to learners and staff in terms of their safety and well-being. In addition, over the last month senior leaders in the Trust have been working with Headteachers and their teams to plan for the wider opening of schools as announced by the Government.

Throughout this planning our overriding priority has been the safety, health and well-being of children, young people and our staff. We have worked in partnership with academies in our Trust, other local Trusts, East Riding of Yorkshire Council and Hull City Council. We have also worked with Trade Union representatives and our staff in order to ensure all views are considered. Our communications with you as parents and carers have also been central to our planning.

As a Trust we have avoided using any specific dates in both our communications and plans. This was a conscious decision on our part because we felt that it was important to take a cautious, measured approach and develop plans that could be implemented when it was felt that conditions were such that we moved to wider opening.

Any decision made by the Trust to move to the next phase of opening will be informed by Government guidance and Public Health advice, as well as the local context. While we rely on the Government to keep us informed of the national picture it is essential that we consider the actual position in our local area. The recent communication published by the East Riding of Yorkshire Council on 20 May advised that all schools defer any implementation of wider opening until at least the 8 June. This would mean that schools would open to children and young people no earlier than the 8 June. It is important to be clear that this would be the case even if an announcement is made by the Government for the phased return to commence from the 1 June. We have been informed that the Government will not make their final decision to confirm school opening until the 28 May.

We also know that the East Riding of Yorkshire Council's decision is based on their assessment of the position locally and we believe that at this time we should follow this advice and therefore our academies will not begin a wider opening until the 8 June at the earliest.

We remain committed to opening our academies to a wider cohort of children and young people but only when we believe that the risk is at a level which is manageable and will not place children, young people, staff and families at heightened risk.

We will continue to provide home learning resources for those learners at home and we appreciate your continued support during these challenging times. We will of course keep you informed over the coming weeks.

Yours sincerely,

Dave McCready
TCAT CEO

Gary Cannon
Headteacher Howden School



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