

Dear Parents, Students and Carers

## **Safe, steady and sustainable – Our plan to reopen schools to additional pupils from 8<sup>th</sup> June**

Next week, we are anticipating a further statement from the Government that following a meeting of SAGE (the Scientific Advisory Group for Emergencies which provides scientific and technical advice to support government decision makers during emergencies), **the five key Government tests for opening up the current lockdown have been met.**

It is likely that this announcement will be made to schools at the same time as the rest of the country hears the news - in the Prime Ministers briefing on Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> May. In this announcement **it is possible that schools will get the final confirmation that they should proceed to begin opening after the 1<sup>st</sup> June 2020.**

The gap for reopening between the announcement on Thursday (during what would be the traditional half term,) and the 1<sup>st</sup> June is quite frankly not a very big lead time to finalise safe and robust planning. **Therefore, BDAT secondary schools will be looking to reopen from Monday, 8<sup>th</sup> June once we have confirmed it is safe to do so.**

### **Our plan**

As you will be aware, all the schools and staff in BDAT have been working hard to put in place plans to allow us to open to some additional groups as set out below from June. However, as we have previously stated - we will only reopen if and when it is safe for us to do so. We need to be safe and well prepared for our students to return in larger numbers. Equally we need to be certain our school staff are safe to return to work.

- **For secondary schools the Government has asked us to consider some face to face education for year 10 and year 12 students.**
- **All schools have been asked to prioritise places for the children of critical workers and children deemed to be vulnerable and we will remain open to these groups between now and the 8<sup>th</sup> June, as we have done since the 20<sup>th</sup> March.**

### **Our timeline**

1. **Up until the 28<sup>th</sup> May** – each school will continue to develop their detailed plan for safe and sustainable reopening, ensuring all pre-opening safety checks and precautions are in place.

- 2. 28<sup>th</sup> May** – the Government is expected to confirm whether England has met all five safety tests and confirm whether schools should continue to plan for **some face to face education for Year 10 and Year 12 students in June.**
- 3. Week commencing the 1<sup>st</sup> June** – the BDAT Board will confirm that all schools have met the BDAT five key tests for safe and sustainable scrutinising each school plan and risk assessment.
- 4.** If both the Government and Trust Board confirm all tests and checks have been met, schools may begin to reopen for some face to face education for Year 10 and Year 12 students from **Monday 8<sup>th</sup> June.** We will send further details when we have them.
- 5. All schools will remain open at all times (Monday-Friday) for the families of critical workers and those children deemed to be vulnerable.**

Each school is planning in line with the Government and BDAT guidance but will have a bespoke plan and risk assessment focussing on what is required on each site to prioritise safety.

Each school will ensure they communicate with you the steps they have taken to ensure students and staff are as safe as possible nearer to opening.

As we have previously committed, we are not rushing our return to school as the safety and welfare of our students and staff are paramount and we do not want to regret decisions later. We look forward to welcoming back more of our students, families and staff to school, but we will only proceed when we are convinced the time is right.

Thank you for bearing with us. We very much appreciate the support of our staff, students, families and communities during lockdown and we hope to see you very soon.

Best wishes



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