

May 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope you and your families are safe and well.

I would like to start by acknowledging the hard work, dedication and professionalism of all the staff at our schools during this difficult period.

The headteachers in each school have been communicating with you on a frequent basis. However, there has been a lot of speculation in the media following the Prime Minister's announcement that schools will partially reopen and I wanted to write to you to outline the approach that the Rowan Learning Trust is taking with its schools.

The Department for Education has confirmed that they have an ambition to re-open schools to some year groups from 1st June at the earliest. Their plan is to begin with children in Nursery, Reception, Y1 and Y6. They are also encouraging schools to ensure that students in Y10 and Y12 will have some face to face time with their teachers in support of their continued home learning. It is not their expectation that all schools will be open to all those year groups from that date.

It is important to note that the government will only confirm on the 28th May whether, as a country, we are to move to step two of the 'COVID-19 recovery strategy' which is the point at which schools will be allowed to partially reopen.

The safety and welfare of your children, you as parents and all our staff in schools is of the utmost importance. Yes, we are keen to get children back into education but we need to ensure that this is not putting them and others at increased risk. Based on this we are working closely with each other, as a family of schools, the local authorities that our schools are in, and the teaching unions to ensure that when the time does come we will be ready to welcome our students back into their school.

The headteachers and their teams are in the process of conducting thorough risk assessments for each school and making the necessary changes to the buildings, policies and procedures to ensure the environment is as safe as it can be. As I am sure you can appreciate, every school is different. To this end it is highly likely that the timing of a phased return and the nature of the lessons taught will look different in each of our schools.

As individual schools work through their preparations and plan for any partial opening to the designated year groups, the headteachers will communicate with you as they have done throughout. As a parent of a Y6 student myself I can understand the conflicting feelings, anxieties and frustrations that the current situation causes you, as parents. Please continue to be patient and work with your school.

Finally, thank you on behalf of all the staff in our schools for your support.

Yours sincerely



Mr P Rimmer
CEO, The Rowan Learning Trust