

22nd May 2020

Reopening of School

Dear Parent/Carer

Over the last two weeks, our school leaders have been working incredibly hard to ready our schools in order to welcome back more pupils. They have been carefully assessing the Government guidance alongside the advice of outside health and safety experts. Our ambition remains to get pupils back to school at the earliest opportunity, but we have always maintained we would only do this when we felt it was safe to do so.

As a Trust we believe that a cautious, measured and phased approach is required where the safety and well-being of our staff, children and families is paramount. Having conducted final reviews of our Risk Assessments this afternoon, the Trust Board has taken the decision to delay the reopening of our schools and therefore, The Mast Academy Trust will not be opening schools on the 1st June to the year groups identified by the Government.

We have been operating a provision for our Vulnerable children and the children of Key Workers at Scissett Middle School. I can confirm that this provision will continue until our schools open more widely and parents/carers should continue to access the provision through the normal system.

Our school leaders will continue to plan meticulously for the further reopening of schools, but this will be no earlier than 8th June. Most staff will be in schools prior to this date to ensure they test out Risk Assessments in a calm, measured and consultative manner so that we can be as confident as possible, in these unchartered times, that when more pupils return to schools all the needs, vulnerabilities and concerns for staff and children have been fully addressed.

Headteachers will write to parents by 2nd June with more details around reopening and schools will be in contact with families after half term, to support children for whom coming back to school may require additional support or planning.

We would like to publically acknowledge all the amazing work done by pupils and staff during lockdown and we would like to thank all of our parents/carers who have been magnificent at supporting us and their children's learning whilst, in many cases, continuing to work and care for other family members.

Thank you, once again, for your support and understanding during these unprecedented times.

Kind regards



Natasha Greenough
CEO, The Mast Academy Trust