

17th June 2020,

Dear Parent/Guardian/Carer,

Re: Wider Opening of Schools for Reception, Year 1, Year 6, Year 10 and Year 12.

I write to you following my letter last week on 11.6.20 and would like to thank you for your understanding and for the responses we received, which have contributed to our planning. Thank you to all parents who have responded to the individual school surveys.

I am relieved to inform you that we are now in a position to open on Monday 22nd June for Year 6 across our primary schools and Years 10 and 12 for some face to face sessions at secondary.

Please note, this provision for Year 6 will be Monday to Friday, with schools closing at lunchtime on Friday, to facilitate Teachers' PPA time as no-one can teach across 'safety bubbles'. You will be notified by each individual school on drop-off and pick-up arrangement before the end of the week. For Year 10 it will be focused on need, but all will have a session in school to assist re-acclimatisation.

We will remain open full time for all key workers' children and our most vulnerable pupils, including Friday afternoon, as we have since the beginning. We will also continue to provide remote learning for all years, indeed we have worked hard to review this continually and to update based on parental feedback to improve the quality of this service.

We were faced with difficulties, as a result of changing guidance, increased key worker numbers, capacity in terms of both the number of classrooms and the supervising staff available and some delays in the delivery of key items, including toilets, cleaning equipment and elements of PPE, which have now been addressed. We are reassured that we can achieve limited wider opening in a safe and positive manner. We have also worked hard to ensure a pastoral focus, actively taking pupil well-being and the child experience into account, rather than simply endeavouring to achieve the practicalities that are entailed in wider re-opening.

Our plans now are based on numbers of pupils whose parents have confirmed they wish a place to return to school. Please note if you have not done this, schools may not be able to accommodate your children at this time. Should your position change, please contact your school and your request will be considered. Please do not simply send your child into school.

We are now trying to see how best we can achieve our wider reopening to include pupils in Reception Class and Year 1, which is proving more difficult, based on our capacity issues.



Unless the guidance changes, allowing rotas and more children in a classroom, we may struggle to do this; however, we are keen to do this and will continue to keep the matter under daily review. We will contact you as soon as we are able to offer more information.

We are also reconsidering alternative methods to support all other year groups and how we might provide some opportunity to access school or some level of 1:1 pastoral support before summer, although as things stand, we are unable to facilitate this in school. As well, we are already planning longer-term for September to provide advance warning of what that looks like for you all, though this is dependent on so much beyond our control.

I thank you for your patience and support. Please rest assured that all decisions taken are based on safety and in the best interests of our young people.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jon Wright', written in a cursive style.

Jon Wright, Chief Executive Officer,
Omega Multi-Academy Trust.