

1 June 2020

Dear Parents Carers,

**Re: possible reopening of school to more students in June**

You will be aware that advice and guidance is rapidly changing with regard to schools reopening. In the last few days a significant number of Local Authorities have advised that schools should not reopen until 15 June 2020 at the very earliest. Their guidance is based on the most recent findings of the Scientific Advisory Group for Emergencies (SAGE).

You will recall that I wrote to you on 20 May 2020 explaining that Bishop Hogarth Catholic Education Trust schools of which St. Michael's Academy is a member, were to open for some face to face contact with Year 10 from 8 June 2020 at the earliest. Having considered the advice of Local Authorities in the North East in conjunction with the SAGE report and the high transmission rate regionally, Directors have made the very difficult decision that Trust schools will not reopen before the 15 June 2020 at the earliest.

This is not a decision that has been taken lightly but gives due regard to health and safety, putting the welfare of children and staff above all other considerations. I know that this will disappoint some parents and carers but in these extremely challenging times it is important that we get reopening times right in order that they can be sustained in the long term. We will continue to make available learning resources for all students on TEAMS or with paper copies.

St. Michael's Catholic Academy will therefore remain closed for all but children of key workers and vulnerable children until at least 15 June 2020. I will update you if and when there is further information available.

While the school remains closed the Trust and I are developing an additional robust Covid-19 risk assessment that will provide confidence in the health and safety measures that will be in place when students begin to return from 15 June 2020.

Yours sincerely,



**Helen Keough**  
**Acting Headteacher**