

**19<sup>th</sup> May 2020**

To our Shaw Education Trust family

### **The wider opening of our academies**

There has been much speculation in the press, and across the nation, regarding the opening of nurseries, schools and academies to more young people.

### **The Shaw Education Trust (SET) position is:**

- a) Our pupils and people will come first; safety will drive decision making;
- b) We will listen to all advice, guidance and recommendations issued by the government, Department for Education (DfE), and SAGE (Scientific Advisory Group for Emergencies);
- c) We will assess each academy individually as to the degree of risk and plausible risk mitigation. This will be specific and tailored to each site;
- d) We recognise that whilst it is desirable for children to return to school, it must be done sensibly and safely;
- e) The SET Board is legally responsible for deciding whether a school should open more widely. The Board will consider local leadership (including governance) analysis, review, and risk assessments. Final decisions will be taken in consultation with the SET Executive Team.

Schools have been asked, by the government, to plan to open more widely from the **1 June 2020** at the earliest. The **28 May 2020** is when the government will make the definitive announcement of their expectations. In terms of planning for wider opening, year groups will be prioritised; and group sizes appropriately modified. However this will not be appropriate, nor wise, for all academies in our Trust. Where a school is not able to open more widely, staff will continue to set home-based learning. Individual schools may provide a 'pared back' offer to families as appropriate, or as required.

### **Factors the Board will consider when determining wider opening include:**

- i. Staff availability, including leadership teams and safeguarding cover;
- ii. The size and capacity of the buildings;
- iii. Where required, the availability of PPE (Personal Protective Equipment);
- iv. The local R rate and any decline in the number of reported cases and deaths;
- v. The review of individual academy risk assessments.

(cont)

Jo Morgan **Chief Executive**

The Lodge, Wolstanton High School, Milehouse Lane, Wolstanton, Newcastle-under-Lyme, Staffordshire ST5 9JU  
**Tel:** 01782 742910 **Email:** [info@shaw-education.org.uk](mailto:info@shaw-education.org.uk) **Online:** [www.shaw-education.org.uk](http://www.shaw-education.org.uk)

We will continue to work co-operatively and collaboratively with all stakeholders, including local authorities, unions and our communities. We recognise that events will inevitably change over time, and on occasion at pace.

**Factors which could influence our future decision making include:**

- a) A change in the local, or national, R rate;
- b) Changes to staffing ratios, or building capacity;
- c) Incidences of COVID19 in an academy and/or its community;
- d) Statutory direction from the DfE.

It is important to note, as you will appreciate, that whilst we will make every effort to manage risk throughout this pandemic, effectively assessing and mitigating risk, does not eradicate risk. Whilst every precaution will be taken across the Trust academies, we cannot guarantee, or provide certainty, around infection likelihood, or transfer.

Staff and children across the Trust have worked incredibly hard over the last nine weeks. Our academies have met parental need and opened their doors to large numbers of pupils. Home-based learning has been meticulously delivered to all our children, using various mechanisms. We are very proud of our people and their collective efforts.

The Principal/Headteacher of your child's academy will inform you of the next steps regarding the opening of your provision. Please be aware that this may be subject to change at short notice.

Your incredible children and our super staff will always be our number one priority.

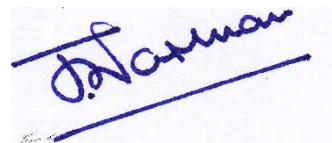
We hope that you, your family and friends, remain safe and well.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Jo Morgan".

Jo Morgan

CEO

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "John Norman".

John Norman

Chair

Jo Morgan **Chief Executive**

The Lodge, Wolstanton High School, Milehouse Lane, Wolstanton, Newcastle-under-Lyme, Staffordshire ST5 9JU  
**Tel:** 01782 742910 **Email:** [info@shaw-education.org.uk](mailto:info@shaw-education.org.uk) **Online:** [www.shaw-education.org.uk](http://www.shaw-education.org.uk)