

2 March 2021

Dear parent/carer

I hope you and your families are well.

You will by now be aware of the government's announcement that schools will open fully in England from **Monday 8th March**. At secondary and post-16 level, this will be a staggered start and will be built around a (voluntary) mass testing programme also – further details of this will be forthcoming from your school as soon as we have worked through the finer details (including, again at secondary and post-16 only, the use of face coverings in classrooms, as well as in communal areas)

Whilst we know that for the vast majority of you this will be a very welcome development, we also appreciate that for some it may also be a worrying time. **Nonetheless, the government is clear that attendance is once again mandatory** and so, if you have any concerns about your child returning to school, it is important that you discuss these with your child's school as soon as possible.

Across the Trinity Trust, each school has its own risk assessment in place. These detail the list of controls and protective measures in place to ensure they can operate as safely as possible, and we have spent the last week reviewing and updating them. Whilst it is important to remember that for most children, Covid-19 is a very mild illness, children can still carry the virus and pass it on to others, even if they have no symptoms at all. **That is why our protective measures in school will remain in place for the time being.**

We all know that it is very important that all children return to face-to-face learning and are able to benefit from the social and emotional aspects of school, along with their academic work. We are committed to ensuring we welcome all our young people back in an orderly and safe environment, and more information will be coming out from each school with regard to its return to school plans, expectation for parents/carers (if dropping them off) and for the pupils/students themselves etc.

If your child attends one of our secondary schools, please do consent to them taking part in lateral flow tests unless there is a medical reason not to do so. After three tests in school (between 3-5 days apart), these tests will be administered from home. I would ask that you support this process wherever possible as they are working well for us insofar as stopping any outbreaks in our schools to date.

Finally, I would like to extend a genuine 'thank you' for the support you have continued to offer your child's school in these most demanding of times. Messages of thanks have been gratefully received by teaching and support staff alike, and of course your role as 'home educators' has been instrumental in helping us to maintain a thorough educational experience, albeit remotely in the majority of cases.

Regards



Michael Gosling
CEO – Trinity MAT