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13 May 2020

Dear Pupils, Parents and Carers

Safe, Steady and Gradual – a message from the CEO about academies possibly opening to additional pupils from 1st June 2020.

I write further to the Prime Minister's national briefing on Sunday night and additional guidance from the Department for Education issued so far this week. I hope this message finds you and yours safe and well.

We understand that there may be a lot of concerns and anxiety around the current lack of concrete detail and planning behind the details of the Government road map to loosen the current measures around social distancing and, in particular, what this may mean about pupils attending our academies from 1st June.

Please do remember that we only heard this information at the same time as the rest of the British public and so will also need to take time to understand and unpick the detail. The further information issued from the Department for Education has been helpful; but we know that we will hear more as the weeks develop.

We will work out the way forward for us on the details of these proposals as they emerge and become clear and will make sure we keep you updated when we know more for sure. However, in the interim period, please be assured that whatever happens **every decision will be made making sure that the safety of our pupils and our staff remains the absolute priority**. We will not be rushing to make decisions that we later regret, so please bear with us while we take stock of the information as it emerges.

In the meantime, our academies remain open as they have in recent weeks - for the children of key workers and children deemed vulnerable only. Our Principals will be writing to you all shortly with a focus on any specific details for individual academies.

We look forward to seeing more of our pupils back in our academies, but only when the time is right and safe.

My very best wishes to you and your families – please stay safe and well.



Debbie Clinton
Chief Executive Officer