

DHO/CAS

3<sup>rd</sup> June 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

As we work towards opening our schools more widely, it is vital that we have a clear picture of how many children will be returning to us in the coming weeks. I am writing to ask you to complete a short survey to allow us to gather this information so we can plan more effectively for your children's return.

We know that the decision of whether or not to send your children back to school is one which is hard to make. That is why we have taken time to ensure that every step has been taken to safeguard both your children and the school staff as we open to more students. You will have read about the steps we have taken in my previous letters and, when you come on site, will be able to see the efforts we have made to make our academy sites easy to access in this new way of working. Please take careful note of the communication you receive from your academy, especially the times your children have to be in school and where you have to drop them off.

I strongly believe we have made our sites as safe as possible and, because of this, I would urge parents to bring their children in to school during their allocated times for the remainder of this term. We will be carefully planning the teaching in order to close any gaps in learning and secure the basic skills required for next year. If you are not confident or have any worries about your child returning to school, please contact your Academy's Principal who will be able to talk through the detailed plans they have put in place.

However, the government is clear that currently bringing a child back to school is the choice of every parent and, in line with that guidance, we will not take enforcement action if your child doesn't attend. If you do not feel able to bring your child back, or you are shielding or self-isolating, I would ask that you continue to access the online learning that will continue to be provided. If your child does not return to school this term, the academy will contact you regularly to make sure that you and your child are supported appropriately and check on any assistance you might need.

All the Academy staff, Principals and I are looking forward to welcoming your children back into school. Please follow the link below to access the survey, we will require this to be completed by 5pm on Friday 5<sup>th</sup> June 2020. Please note that all questions need to be answered to submit the survey.

<https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=RCH8FWxYEaO1ZbPgVctRkBXwajj7B5NusNQxAg7VrxUQURNQjVWNEo1UkVHQTCyUVE3TjdHUVdiWS4u>

Yours sincerely,

David Horrigan