

13 May 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

I hope that this short update finds you and your family well.

I would like to thank you for the support from parents and carers across the Trust, and indeed from our wider community. The positive feedback that has been received about our work, particularly around home learning and pastoral support, during the last couple of months has been greatly appreciated. We also appreciate the suggestions and advice offered in this area.

As you will be aware, the last couple of days has seen updates in the Government's thinking about how schools may reopen. The Department for Education released further advice that was communicated to schools on Monday and Tuesday of this week.

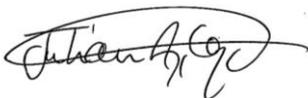
The Trustees, members of the School Performance Review Boards and senior leaders across Pontefract Academies Trust will be working with me over the coming days in looking at how we implement the guidance received from the Government. Despite the complexities and challenges it presents, the Trust are approaching the task with the safety and wellbeing of our children and the community as our utmost priority, and that as many children and young people as possible have the opportunity to directly engage with us before September. The Trust will be working to the following principles in our planning:

1. The obligation to ensure the safety of pupils, parents and staff, and a commitment to the welfare and wellbeing of pupils and staff;
2. Making the best possible decisions on the basis of the evidence that we have, and within the constraints and parameters that we face in our schools.

Despite the best efforts of our teachers with regard to home learning, like all schools and trusts, there may have been lost learning. As you would expect, our planning will also consider how we can utilise the time moving forward to help our pupils catch up.

Once again, thank you for your continued support. In the meantime, we will keep you informed of developments and plans as they happen, and in good time.

My sincere best wishes for your continued good health and that of your loved ones.



Julian Appleyard OBE
Chief Executive Officer