



02 June 2020

Dear Colleagues,

I hope you and your families are keeping safe and well during this challenging time. I am writing to update you further on the Wade Deacon Trust's preparations for the wider opening of our schools, following the Prime Minister's announcement on 28th May.

We want nothing more than to have all children back in school learning and socialising with their friends. However, our priority must be for schools to reopen as safely as possible for pupils, staff and parents/carers in a measured and timely manner.

Trust and school leaders have been working on plans for wider opening. Our Health and Safety provider has worked closely with us and has undertaken an audit of our sites to assist us in making risk assessments for each school and considering our operational options. We have taken account of guidance from unions and the health and safety concerns they have raised locally and nationally, and we have paid very careful attention to the government guidance that has been published. As you know we have surveyed parents to gauge potential levels of attendance as and when we can offer wider opening. Thank you to all those staff who have responded promptly to the staff survey. The responses are being used by school leaders to make plans in light of information about which colleagues will be able to come into school and which will need to remain at home for self-isolation. We have also, where appropriate, sought to align our planning to the actions of each local authority in which we operate.

We have taken steps to consider what can be safely achieved, and our planning is very much 'live' as we adapt to updated guidance from government, unions and from information we receive from staff and parents. At present we are working towards wider opening of primary schools (including the Grange Academy primary phase) from 15th June and secondary schools (including the Grange Academy secondary phase) from 22nd June. We are organising a JCNC union meeting to consult on these matters, including our specific risk assessments, with regional union representatives in the week beginning 8th June.

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Later this week, we will be seeking agreement with our Trust board about arrangements for each site and although there will be commonality in significant aspects of planning each school will need to adapt to their own context given the age, size and access to buildings.

Alongside the information we are providing for our staff, each of our Principals will provide you with greater detail with regards plans in individual schools, including plans to make sure you are as confident as you can be when we welcome more pupils back into school.

Thank you again for your continued support, hard work and understanding. Please be assured that the wellbeing of staff and pupils is at the forefront of our planning.

Yours sincerely,

Gary Kelly
Chief Executive Officer

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