

12th June 2020

### Summer Term 2020

Dear Parents, Carers and families,

Firstly, on behalf of all NSAT Headteachers I'd like to offer you my sincere thanks for your support during the last two weeks. For those parents whose children have returned to school. We are very grateful for your adherence to the new safety processes we have in place at our schools and, for the many parents who continue to support home-education you have our full admiration and support.

It has been another strange and challenging week in education and before it closes I wanted to offer you further reassurances and share with you the future intentions of all Northern Star Academies Trust schools.

We began the very careful wider re-opening of our schools on Monday 8th June. This decision was made based on the collective work of our Trust Central Team and Headteachers to ensure that all health and safety risks had been meticulously considered and all mitigating actions were securely in place before we further opened our doors.

Each NSAT school's circumstances are unique and in particular their buildings differ. To assure ourselves, our staff and yourselves we completed a rigorous Risk Assessment for each school and compiled a wider Operations Checklist for the Trust, as a whole. Risk Assessments are technical, health and safety based exercises that identify any risks of harm (Coronavirus) we can foresee, and help us to plan as many ways as possible to reduce that risk. In addition, last week we conducted two days of robust training and professional development for all NSAT Staff. This practical training focused on how best we can support our staff so that they can make all reasonable endeavours to help all pupils and students safely return to full-time education. Finally, our Local Governing Bodies and Board of Trustees have met and robustly scrutinised our plans, and have agreed that all the actions we have taken put the safety of our pupils and staff first and foremost.

Feedback to date has been extremely positive and the new procedures we have implemented this week to prevent the spread of Coronavirus have been well-received. It has been a joy to hear the sounds of children's laughter and see their smiles. As time moves on, we will adjust and review our plans as we receive feedback from our learners, staff and parents.

Since the start of this crisis, our school leaders and their staff have worked ceaselessly and tirelessly to support the children and young people who attend our schools. We are so



acutely aware of the importance of childhood and the unique and incredible learning experiences that our schools offer. And, whilst acknowledging that schools will still feel far from normal for the foreseeable future, we will continue to focus on what more we can do differently and responsively to support your children and you during this period of instability and complexity.

I hope to be able to update you shortly with our wider offer, pending any further national guidance. In the meantime, please do not hesitate to contact your child's Headteacher for any further information - we welcome all feedback.

Yours sincerely,



Jenn Plews

*Chief Executive Officer :Northern Star Academies Trust*