

8th July 2020

Northern Star Academies Trust Schools
The Full Opening of Schools – September 2020

Dear Parents, carers and families,

As we approach the final week of the academic year 2019-2020, I would like to share with you our Trust plans for September.

Last Thursday 2nd July, the Government issued Trusts and schools with the guidance about the full opening of schools in September. We are very excited about this prospect and very much looking forward to welcoming back our whole school communities after a long and very unusual period of absence.

The guidance describes what we need to put in place in each of our schools to mitigate risks of infection and to provide a safe and secure environment for learning to take place. Each of our schools has partially opened since the beginning of June following thorough risk assessments – these risk assessments will now be fully updated and reviewed in light of the recent guidance. Following this, governors and trustees will scrutinise each one before each school opens in September to ensure that all actions we are taking **place the safety of our pupils and staff first and foremost.**

At the bottom of this letter you can find links to all the relevant Department for Education Guidance for parents and carers.

Our schools will close fully on July 17th for the summer break. School closure will allow us to complete much needed planned and preventative maintenance in readiness for the start of the new year.

Our secondary schools will be open, as usual for **A Level and GCSE results in August** and Secondary Headteachers will be in touch to explain how these days will be delivered.

Attendance expectations – we believe that it is vital for all children to return to their education setting to minimise, as far as possible, the longer term impact of the pandemic on children’s education, wellbeing and wider development. From September, attendance will be mandatory and this means the usual rules on attendance will apply.

During next week your Headteacher will contact you to outline detailed arrangements for the start of the school year, including all transport arrangements. If we have to revise plans through the summer, we will be in contact with you.

Headteachers will also offer advice and support on what students can be doing to prepare for their return to school and provide further information about what they are offering to support positive health and wellbeing, transitions and examinations.



Finally, I would like to offer you my sincere thanks for all that you have done to support our schools and education over the last five months. It has been truly remarkable and appreciated by all our staff. We look to the future with optimism, hope and a sense of pride in our schools and community. Together, across our Trust Partnership we will *build back better and rise stronger* to address the challenges of the pandemic and secure a happy and successful future for all our children and young people.

I wish you all a peaceful and restful summer holidays.

Yours sincerely,



Jenn Plews *Chief Executive Officer: Northern Star Academies Trust*

Department for Education: Guidance for parents and carers

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/guidance-for-full-opening-special-schools-and-other-specialist-settings/guidance-for-full-opening-special-schools-and-other-specialist-settings>

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/what-parents-and-carers-need-to-know-about-early-years-providers-schools-and-colleges-during-the-coronavirus-covid-19-outbreak>