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'Innovative Education – Transforming Lives'

5th June 2020

Dear Parent/Carer

Letter from CEO

Further to my letter on 29th May, I would like to provide you with an update on our plans on wider school opening. As you are aware the Directors of Exceed agreed that due to the increasing infection rates in South Yorkshire, all Exceed Academies would not progress to wider school opening until the week beginning **15th June 2020**. The Directors made this decision in response to a letter received from the Director of Public Health Rupert Suckling.

The national bioalert level remains at 4, this indicates that a COVID-19 epidemic is in general circulation and transmission is high. However, it has been reported by the Director of Public Health, that we are passed the peak in Doncaster, contrary to what you may have read in some national tabloids earlier this week.

The NHS Test and Trace system was launched late last week, and is now starting to provide a more detailed picture of how the virus is circulating locally.

In terms of what this means for schools, the Director for Public Health still believes that it is too early to open schools over the next week. The reasoning for this is as follows:

- The national bioalert level remains at 4, this has not changed since the last issued advice
- There have been double the number of cases reported via the NHS Test and Trace system than in previously via the national government website
- 30% of the current cases have not yet been contacted so the number of contacts to trace remains unknown

It is hoped that as the Track and Trace system becomes more embedded the risk will further reduce over the next week, meaning that the Local Authority and Public Health may be in a position to further discuss the possibility of schools reopening, however as you can appreciate they continue to be cautious as their advice remains to be based upon viable and accurate information that is available to them.

Directors of Exceed Learning Partnership have taken the above evidence into consideration, and will be continuing with the decision to delay the wider opening, and to review the weekly information that we receive from Public Health.

As you are aware, Academies within Exceed Learning Partnership, have been working extremely hard in readiness to welcome both pupils and staff back into the school environment as safely as possible, once we are able to do so. As previously stated we will begin the phased return in all our academies on a weekly basis:

- Year 6 pupils - alongside critical worker children and vulnerable children
- Year 1 pupils will be phased in
- Reception pupils will be phased in
- Nursery pupils will be phased in

You will be receiving further information from your child's academy or school detailing new procedures that will be implemented. If you have any questions or are anxious about your child returning to school, please contact your child's Principal or Head Teacher to discuss this further.

Finally, I would like to thank you once again for your continued support. All our staff have really valued the positive interaction they have had with pupils and parents. This unprecedented time continues to be challenging however we are so looking forward to welcoming some of our pupils back.

Take care and please continue to follow the guidance on social distancing so that we can all support reducing this virus and getting back to normal times!

Yours sincerely

B.A. Nixon

Beryce Nixon
CEO

John Blount

John Blount
Chair of Directors

