

‘Innovative Education – Transforming Lives’

29th May 2020

Dear Parent/Carer

Letter from CEO

I am writing to update you on our plans on wider school opening. The Directors of Exceed have agreed that due to the increasing infection rates in South Yorkshire, all Exceed Academies will not progress to wider school opening until the week beginning **15th June 2020**. The Directors are making this decision in response to a letter received this week from the Director of Public Health, Rupert Suckling stating these points:

The North of the country, including Yorkshire and the Humber and Doncaster has been constantly told that the pandemic wave is two weeks behind the pandemic wave seen in London and in the South of the country.

The nationally available data on the numbers of new COVID-19 cases (which is dependent on the testing strategy) shows the Doncaster rate is in the middle of regional averages, although in the last seven days South Yorkshire has seen one of the highest number of new cases in the North of England.

Having this reliable data and intelligence will help me to consider if there is scope for any relaxing or change in advice. As I have said, we are constantly monitoring the situation and if my advice was to change, then it would be based on the following factors:

- A review of the national Bio alert level – currently level 4
- An expected further reduction in the number of new cases in line with adherence to the current physical/social distancing guidance
- Starting the relaxation of any physical/social distancing measures from as low a number of new cases as possible to reduce the chance of sparking a second peak

Taking the above evidence into consideration, the Directors have taken the decision to delay the wider opening, in order to review the weekly information that we receive from Public Health. This also corresponds with the information release by the SAGE Committee which states that infection rates could decrease by 50% in the next two weeks, therefore allowing for a safer transition of pupils back into school.

Within Exceed Academies we have continued to make progress on all the safety arrangements which I stated in my previous correspondence to you. Once we receive the infection rate evidence, 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

From parental surveys we will be implementing 'a **bubble system**'. All pupils within the bubble will remain together throughout the day with teachers, support staff and lunchtime supervision. This is to reduce the risk of cross-contamination. In order to plan for this system, we will not be able to provide extended before and after school club provision as this would increase the risk of cross-contamination. We have reviewed staffing capacity against Government guidance and we do not have enough additional staff to provide this extended resource. Safety is paramount and so we have to ensure that we achieve this, in the most secure way.

Critical workers will be accommodated, against the list of agreed **Critical workers. We are unable to take additional children to this list as we do not have the staffing capacity to accommodate for this with the 1:15 ratios (appendix 1 – Critical worker list)**

I hope the above measures reassure you further of all the steps we are taking to make the transition for pupils, the safest that it can be. We have put in additional handwashing systems, new signage and are providing all our staff with PPE, if they require this. Next week we will be undertaking a full training programme so that all our staff understand the '**new way of working.**' Principals / Head Teachers will be liaising with Parents with an outline of all the procedures so that you have a full understanding of this.

In relation to curriculum development, we have planned a full programme for our pupils which focuses on the development of their confidence and self-esteem. We have created some new learning characters in order for our pupils to learn the new routines in a positive way, so that they can begin to feel safe and secure in the school environment.

Finally, I would like to thank you 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!

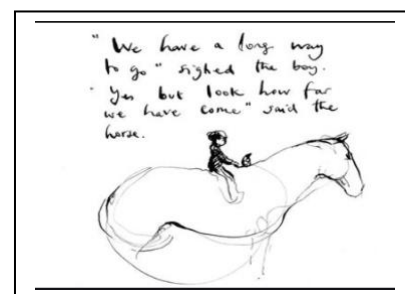
Yours sincerely

B.A. Nixon

Beryce Nixon
CEO

John Blount

John Blount
Chair of Directors



Appendix 1: Critical Worker

Health and social care

This includes, but is not limited to, doctors, nurses, midwives, paramedics, social workers, care workers, and other frontline health and social care staff including volunteers; the support and specialist staff required to maintain the UK's health and social care sector; those working as part of the health and social care supply chain, including producers and distributors of medicines and medical and personal protective equipment.

Education and childcare

This includes:

- childcare
- support and teaching staff
- social workers
- specialist education professionals who must remain active during the COVID-19 response to deliver this approach

Key public services

This includes:

- those essential to the running of the justice system
- religious staff
- charities and workers delivering key frontline services
- those responsible for the management of the deceased
- journalists and broadcasters who are providing public service broadcasting

Local and national government

This only includes:

- those administrative occupations essential to the effective delivery of the COVID-19 response
- or delivering essential public services, such as the payment of benefits, including in government agencies and arm's length bodies
- Food and other necessary goods
- This includes those involved in food:
 - production
 - processing
 - distribution
 - sale and delivery
- as well as those essential to the provision of other key goods (for example hygienic and veterinary medicines)

Public safety and national security

This includes:

- police and support staff
- Ministry of Defence civilians
- contractor and armed forces personnel (those critical to the delivery of key defence and national security outputs and essential to the response to the COVID-19 outbreak)
- fire and rescue service employees (including support staff)
- National Crime Agency staff

- those maintaining border security, prison and probation staff and other national security roles, including those overseas

Transport

This includes those who will keep the air, water, road and rail passenger and freight transport modes operating during the COVID-19 response, including those working on transport systems through which supply chains pass.

Utilities, communication and financial services

This includes:

- staff needed for essential financial services provision (including but not limited to workers in banks, building societies and financial market infrastructure)
- the oil, gas, electricity and water sectors (including sewerage)
- information technology and data infrastructure sector and primary industry supplies to continue during the COVID-19 response
- key staff working in the civil nuclear, chemicals, telecommunications (including but not limited to network operations, field engineering, call centre staff, IT and data infrastructure, 999 and 111 critical services)
- postal services and delivery
- payments providers
- waste disposal sectors