



7 July 2020

Dear Parents and Carers

Since my last letter our academies within GLF Schools have been welcoming different year groups back to school for the last few weeks. With safety measures put in place and comprehensive risk assessments across our schools and the GLF Schools trust itself, this phase of widening schools to more children and students has been successful. Thank you to all parents who sent your children back into school; it has been good to see them.

We are conscious that there are year groups which have not had the opportunity to return to school this side of the summer break. Our schools are continuing to send home learning either on-line or using learning packs. Thank you for encouraging your children to engage with these activities, as well as using the other resources that we have shared on our schools' platforms.

You will have heard the Government's announcement on Thursday 2 July that schools will be open for all children and students from September 2020. The Government has stated: '*Given the improved position, the balance of risk is now overwhelmingly in favour of children returning to school. For the vast majority of children, the benefits of being back in school far outweigh the very low risk from coronavirus (COVID-19)*'.

We are delighted that we can now look forward to seeing all 15,000 children and young people back in our schools next term. We are working on updating our risk assessments for a full return to school and working out exactly what your school will look like and feel like when your child returns. We need to ensure that we follow the national guidance in terms of placing children and students into separate 'bubbles'. This is to reduce contact between different groups in order to keep the risk of infection to a minimum. We will maintain the stringent cleaning and disinfecting processes we already have in place to ensure that our schools are as safe as possible at this time.

Each Headteacher will be communicating with you directly about their own school's arrangements for September 2020, however there are some key aspects which I would like to bring to your attention:

1. You must ensure that **if anyone in your household has COVID-19 symptoms, your child does *not* attend school**. Any child or staff member who develops symptoms in the school day will be sent home immediately. You must follow the government guidance '[stay at home: guidance for households with possible or confirmed coronavirus \(COVID-19\) infection](#)'. If anyone in your household, or your child, **tests positive for COVID-19 you *must* inform your school immediately**.
2. Schools will be holding one or two **staff training days** as usual at the start of the academic year. Due to the exceptional circumstances that we have all experienced this academic year, next year may **begin with different year groups returning at different**

times and possibly on different days. This is to ensure everyone's safety as we begin to work within the new bubbles.

3. The Government has advised **walking or cycling to school wherever possible** to reduce the use of public transport. Please remember that many of GLF's schools are situated in residential areas where it is difficult for parents to drop off their children outside the school gates. Please work out alternative arrangements before September.
4. Attendance will be mandatory from the start of the new school year. The government has clearly set out that the usual rules for attendance will be reinstated from September, including:
 - a. **parents' duty to secure that their child attends regularly at school** where the child is a registered pupil at school and they are of compulsory school age;
 - b. schools' responsibilities to record attendance and follow up absence
 - c. the availability to issue sanctions, including fixed penalty notices in line with local authorities' codes of conduct.
 - d. **If your child remains under the care of a specialist health care professional** you should discuss their care before returning to school in September, and talk to your school about the situation. Where children are not able to attend school as parents are following clinical and/or public health advice, they will not be penalised
5. The **curriculum** that we offer will remain broad and balanced, and we intend to continue to include music, the arts and sport.
6. All schools will expect their children and students to wear **full school uniform** from September.

In closing, we are sure that some children, students, parents or carers will be worried about the return in September after such a long time out of school. We will continue to support families who have experienced difficulty, as we have throughout this period.

We are aware of the importance of routine in order for school to be normal again, as soon as possible, for children and staff. Whilst there remains uncertainty regarding national assessments and examinations, and the ongoing impact of COVID-19, we are focusing on building upon the strong relationships which exist between families and schools so that face-to-face schooling is the best it can be in the new academic year.

Thank you for your support as we prepare for September.

Yours sincerely



Jon Chaloner
CEO, GLF Schools