

August 2020

To our Shaw Education Trust family

School full opening in September 2020

As we approach September and a return to school, there has been much speculation in the press, and across the nation, about how this will work. Schools have been told, by the government, that they must re-open fully in September. All schools in the Trust are prepared for this undertaking and have implemented a wide range of management programmes to enable fulfillment of this obligation.

We believe all learners should be in school to:

- enable them to be stimulated and enriched by education and their school environment;
- catch up on lost learning and make good progress in their studies;
- meet with their friends, regain social circles, and engage in safe interaction.

What you can do to help your child:

- ensure they understand how to keep themselves safe - 'catch-it, bin it, kill it', regular handwashing and social distancing;
- ensure they have a face mask if they are using public transport, and offer guidance as to how they should behave during the journey to school;
- ensure they understand how to dispose of a face mask safely- or, if it is a re-useable one, how to keep it hygienically in their bag (by providing carry cases, or small plastic bags);
- encourage them to talk to teachers or staff if they have any concerns;
- help them to understand that school organisation will be different in September and the importance of following new rules to keep themselves and others safe.

What schools will do:

- share clear expectations with learners and support them on their return to school;
- provide appropriate washing and hygiene facilities;
- ensure school buildings support COVID safe practices.

Sometimes it may be necessary for schools to adapt their approach to opening- and this could take many forms. At this moment, we simply do not know what will unfold as time progresses. Should schools not be able to fulfil their commitment, for example due to a local COVID outbreak, 'school days' may need to be adapted and staff will set home-based, blended learning. Rarely, individual schools may need to provide a 'pared back' offer to families as appropriate, or as required, at short notice.

Jo Morgan **Chief Executive**

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The Shaw Education Trust (SET) position is:

- a) Our pupils and people will come first; safety will drive decision making;
- b) We will listen to all advice, guidance and recommendations issued by the government, Department for Education (DfE), and SAGE (Scientific Advisory Group for Emergencies);
- c) We will assess each academy individually as to the degree of risk and plausible risk mitigation. This will be specific and tailored to each site;
- d) We recognise that it is highly desirable for children to return to school, and it must be done sensibly and safely;
- e) The SET Board is legally responsible for deciding whether a school should be closed or open. The Board will consider local leadership (including governance) analysis, review, and risk assessments. Final decisions will be taken in consultation with the SET Executive Team.

Factors the Board will consider when determining changes to full opening include:

- i. A change in the local, or national, R rate and local lockdown procedures/directives;
- ii. Changes to staffing ratios, or building capacity;
- iii. Incidences of COVID19 in an academy and/or its community;
- iv. Statutory direction from the DfE.

As we previously stated, it is important to note, that while we will make every effort to manage risk throughout this pandemic, effectively assessing and mitigating risk, does not eradicate risk. Every precaution will be taken across the Trust academies, but we cannot guarantee, or provide certainty, around infection likelihood in line with national guidance.

We hope that you, and your family and friends, remain safe and well. We are very much looking forward to welcoming your children back into our Trust schools; we have really missed them.

With good wishes for the rest of the summer break.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jo Morgan".

Jo Morgan

Chief Executive

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