

25th May 2020

Dear parent/carer

I hope you, and your families, are healthy and coping well in this challenging time.

At the start of last week, the principals of our schools discussed effective communication with parents. It was agreed that there would be three letters in total, along the following lines (roughly, as some aspects varied slightly from one school to another, due to the context of the individual school):

Letter 1

As the CEO, I would send a letter to all parents/carers offering a Trust perspective of our approach to the wider re-opening of schools in England on Monday 1 June. I appreciate that this was a lengthy letter, but it spanned institutions that cater for children aged 0-18 and it was designed to be a 'catch-all' document, addressing as many areas as possible. It was distributed on Wednesday 20 May.

Letter 2

This would then be followed up with a second letter, from the Principal of the school your son/daughter attends, offering more information and assurances (including a booklet) regarding their return to a safe school environment. This letter was sent on Friday 22 May, and it included an online questionnaire requesting information on whether or not you intend your son/daughter to attend on Monday 1 June. The deadline for a reply was the end of today, Monday 25 May.

Letter 3

Once we had collated the information i.e. knew how many pupils were due to attend on Monday 1 June, we would write out to their parents only, explaining the specific details of the provision e.g. drop off/pick up times, which pupils and staff were grouped together and so on. This communication is scheduled to go out on Wednesday 27 May, giving you as much time as possible to plan for the following week.

Then we received another announcement from the PM last night, which has altered some of our planning. I am sure it will not be the last time, and I understand (and I know you do also) that in these circumstances it is likely to happen. Our job is to readjust, as best we can, and let people know about it as quickly as we can (hence this letter, 2b or whatever you want to call it).

Largely, the changes to the government's plan are not too substantial. At primary school level (and for nursery settings), it actually remains the same – we will open, albeit in a phased manner, for more pupils from Monday 1 June. The third letter above will still follow, to those parents who indicate that their child will attend on Monday (or have yet to make up their mind).

However, at secondary and post-16, the planning has changed as the PM announced this wider reopening would now be pushed back to Monday 15 June. As we have at every step, we will continue to follow central government guidance and so I am announcing that:

1. Our three secondary schools (Trinity Academy Halifax, Trinity Academy Sowerby Bridge and Cathedral Academy) **will no longer be opening more widely (to Y10 students) from Monday 1 June.**
2. Our post-16 college (Trinity Sixth Form Academy) **will no longer be opening more widely (to Y12 learners) from Monday 1 June.**

I want to stress to all parents that whilst we want to open more widely, in order to ensure that the young people who attend our schools get the very best academic and pastoral opportunities possible, we will continue to follow central government guidance (as, and when, it is released).

I know by the correspondence that I have received that a number of you are likely to be disappointed by this development, but I reiterate our commitment to continuing to ensure access for all to high-quality distance learning materials.

Our detailed planning for a wider re-opening at secondary and post-16 is still in place, but will now focus on Monday 15 June instead. The parents/carers of those young people (in Y10 and Y12) will still receive bespoke communications from the Principal of their school, but it will be nearer to that date rather than on Wednesday of this week (as was previously planned).

Regards

Michael Gosling
CEO – Trinity Multi-Academy Trust