



14<sup>th</sup> May 2020

Dear Parents and Carers

*Summer Term 2020*

I hope that you and your families are managing to keep well at this challenging time. I know that some of you have lost loved ones to this terrible virus, and many more have been through hugely anxious periods of symptoms and illness; I know also that the current social restrictions make such instances even more difficult to bear. In such circumstances I would like to express every best wish on behalf of the Trust.

I wanted to write to you about the government's current proposals regarding the wider opening of schools for pupils and students later this term. You will have seen that the government is hoping to allow pupils in Nursery, Reception, Year 1 and Year 6 to begin to return after half term, and to allow students in Years 10 and 12 to spend some time in school to supplement and support home and remote learning; schools have therefore been asked to prepare for this to happen. However, I want to emphasise that the **1<sup>st</sup> June is the earliest that this might happen** – this depends on further falls in the spread and impact of the virus, as well as discussions with national unions and associations. I think it is important that I outline also that whatever date the government does decide upon, **we shall not bring back all of the pupils and students in these year groups immediately**, as we need to phase even such a limited return to make sure we are providing the safest and most appropriate setting for our staff, pupils and students. The government has produced [information for parents](#) on this proposal which you might find useful.

To be clear, when a date for the return of these year groups has been agreed nationally, we shall then bring these pupils and students into school **gradually** and through a programme that will be clearly laid out for you by your school; **we shall not bring back all pupils and students in those year groups at once**. A gradual return will allow us to induct pupils and students into new systems and approaches that are designed to keep them safe, and will allow staff to make sure these new systems meet the government's requirements. These requirements require each school to introduce new ways of working which will include:

- Arrival and departure times staggered to minimise gatherings
- Class sizes limited to 15 – this will inevitably mean that pupils and students are unlikely to be taught by their regular teachers
- Pupils and students working in the same group through each day they attend and engagement between groups restricted
- Lunch and break times rearranged
- Increased access to hand washing and hygiene routines.

Please note that during this possible wider but still limited reopening, we shall **not** be able to offer breakfast clubs, after school clubs or any extra-curricular activities. We know that this is such an important part of our schools' work and hope that we might begin to reintroduce such activities at some point in the autumn term. I also need to be clear that siblings of pupils in year groups other than those identified by the

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government will not be able to attend. I know that this may cause difficulties for families, but it is essential that we implement government guidelines.

You will receive full information on how your child's school within our Trust will make specific arrangements for this wider reopening; please look out for all emails from the school. Underpinning each school's arrangements is our commitment to look after our pupils, students, staff and wider communities. I know that whenever a return to school takes place there will be wide ranging and understandable anxiety; our task is to make sure we support families in overcoming this anxiety by demonstrating that our schools are safe places to work and learn.

I know that you are continuing to receive information as well as access to home learning from each of our schools, and I am aware of how appreciative you have been of the time and commitment of our teachers and support staff in maintaining learning and contact at this difficult time. I am so proud of our staff team and the ways in which our pupils and students have responded with real determination to new ways of learning. I am sure this will continue until we are able to resume regular learning for all.

I would like to thank you for your continued support for your child and our schools. *The Collegiate Trust* is a strong family of four primary and two secondary schools, and it is our commitment to each other in this family that will allow us to rebuild the education of your children effectively over the coming year. Please continue to keep safe and stay well.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'G. H. Smith', with a stylized flourish at the end.

**Mr Gordon Smith**  
Chief Executive