22nd May 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope that you and your loved ones are safe and well.

I would like to update you on our position regarding the potential re-opening of schools. As I am sure you will appreciate, the situation is both complex and fluid with changes and new guidance appearing daily which makes detailed planning very challenging. We all want our students back in school, learning and able to be with their friends again. Our teachers want to be back doing what they love doing. However, our priority at the Academy is the health, safety and wellbeing of all members of our school community.

The Government has asked that, from Monday 1st June at the earliest, schools provide some face-to-face support for students in Years 10 and 12 to supplement the home learning they have been undertaking since partial closure on Friday 20th March. You will also be aware, from Steve Reddy’s (Director for Children and Young People’s Services) communication, towards the end of last week, that Liverpool Schools **will not be opening prior to Monday 15th June**.

The provision for priority groups, including vulnerable children and children of critical workers, who have been eligible to attend throughout the partial closure, remains unchanged. The Government has said that there are currently no plans to reopen secondary schools for other year groups (Years 7, 8, 9, 11 and 13) before the end of the academic year in July. Therefore, we will continue to set work via Class Charts and by posting student home-learning packs for these groups of students. These packs are being posted this week ready for the start of the next term

The Prime Minister has said that schools will only re-open when the five key tests set by Government, including the rate of infection decreasing, are met. It is also important to understand that the government will only make the final decision on whether to press ahead with the re-opening of schools on Friday 28th May, and only then if the evidence does not support this decision will school re-opening be delayed. However, the final decision on whether to invite students back will rest with the Academy leadership team. We have plans in place and an operational risk assessment, which is reviewed and updated each time new guidance is released, but we will not be making any decisions immediately. Plans for re-opening will need to be carefully considered and would be subject to consultation with the Governing Body, staff and unions. We will also look at ways of involving the views of parents in the decisions we make. Local context is also important in this decision. Regionally, the North-West had the highest number of new cases of COVID-19 last week and Liverpool still has a significant number of cases; this increases the need to proceed with caution. In addition, each school is different and will therefore have different considerations to take into account. The Academy has both Year 10 and Year 12 students. We have one central building and cannot distribute students around outlying buildings.

Taking all of the above into consideration, I am currently unable to confirm if students in Year 10 and 12 will be returning to school on Monday 15th June. Depending on national and local circumstances, consultation, planning and risk assessment there may or may not be a phased approach to Year 10 and 12 students returning at some point within the next few weeks. I will write to you again when the picture is clearer and I am able to confirm our plans for the remainder of the academic year. It is going to be a long journey back to any kind of normality and if, at any point in the next few weeks, students in Year 10 and 12 are able to return, it will not be on a full-time basis or normal timetables. In the meantime, students in those year groups will continue to be set work by their teachers. Please be assured that we are doing everything we can to plan for the future and to support our students. May I take this opportunity to remind you about our weekly ‘Virtual Newsletter’ which celebrates the wonderful work your children are producing and also keeps you up to date with Academy news. Thank you for your continued support, which as always, is very much appreciated. I look forward to the time when, as a community, we can all be together again. I wish you all a safe and peaceful half-term.

Yours faithfully

J Sing

Mrs J Sing

Head of School