

19 May 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

I hope you are all well.

As the reality of coming out of the next stage of lockdown is debated and digested, I think many have found the days following last Sunday's announcement difficult to process in terms of the implications for both personal and professional life.

I do not envy the decisions that the Government has to make right now, but I am finding it helpful to put our own planning into two categories; the things we can control and the things that we cannot.

In our powers is the planning to ensure that when our students do return, it is done in a sensible and pragmatic fashion. It is also about clarifying expectations about what any face-to-face time with staff may look like before the summer break. Of course, we will continue to consider advice provided by the Government, Specialist Agencies and Unions but our focus will be on setting work, reviewing progress and crucially, welfare. It is unlikely to be the same physical classroom lessons and teaching as was before lockdown.

We are, therefore, splitting our planning up into two sections:

The reopening of OSFC this summer term

Whatever the Government's intentions are, we will only open OSFC when it is right and correct for our staff and students. We will not be rushed. As such, a project has started to look at how we would open the OSFC building at the end of June. This is both to provide important face-to-face time, but also to help us trial and evaluate processes in preparation for when we are ready to reopen fully.

We will send more details about this over the coming weeks.

E-Learning

E-Learning is going to be a prominent part of our offer for the foreseeable future, and it is clear it will need to complement our face-to-face teaching for some time to come. We cannot, therefore, take our focus from this. Whatever happens nationally, it has to remain at the forefront of our thinking.

Accordingly, we are evaluating our current offer and identifying additional ways in which it can be strengthened with more time, training, and investment. We are



grateful for your feedback to date and, would welcome any thoughts and comments that will help us to further enhance the work that is being done.

Whatever happens, please be assured that we will continue to support you, your child, and each other as we move slowly and carefully to the next stage. Should you have any further questions and comments, please direct them to your son/daughter's PPT in the first instance.

So, thank you for your continued support and engagement with the College. There will be challenges to come, but we have every confidence that we can overcome them collectively.

Best wishes to you all.

Dr Nikos Savvas
Chief Executive Suffolk Academies Trust