

8 June 2020

Dear Parents/Carers

We hope that you are healthy and well.

Before giving a brief update on our response to Covid and our reopening plans, I just wanted to acknowledge the issues that are being raised following the tragic death of George Floyd in Minneapolis.

I think what has come out of the events of the last few weeks is that not doing something is not enough. It is easy for an individual or an organisation to put out bold statements condemning racism. That doesn't, however, mean that issues of equality are being addressed in a proactive way.

That is why it is important that we all stop and reflect on the broader issues that the tragedy in America has rightly brought to the fore. As a community, we should educate ourselves more on inequality and diversity. We should challenge not just negative behaviour, but also ourselves to ask is there more we can do to tackle this. We should question if something we have always done can be improved and enhanced. Just because something was OK last week, doesn't mean that it is OK now.

While these are issues that individually we should reflect on, this is a much broader issue that we should respond to as a community.

As such, as Covid allows, we will be looking at the issues that have been identified with a great deal of thought and consideration. I strongly believe that as an organisation we strive to do the right things in the right ways. That doesn't mean that we can't do more.

So, please do take some time to consider the above. If we can support you to bring forward ideas, comments, suggestions – then we would like to help you and be part of that. Together we can achieve a great deal.

Which brings me to our reopening plans. As many of you will know, some primary schools opened for the first-time last week to reception, year one and year six, and now the DfE is putting greater focus on the guidance being offered to secondary schools and colleges.



As a result, our risk assessments and plans have been scrutinised by a significant number of people over the last seven days including trustees, staff and our operations teams. We are reviewing the feedback and will be providing more detail in the next update after discussions with staff and Unions.

Please be assured that we are planning to open the building at the end of June as outlined in my previous emails. Whilst there is no intention to start delivering on site teaching currently, we are making some exceptional arrangements where necessary to accommodate specific students. We will continue our dialogue with our Year 12s about their individual needs and circumstances too, in order to have a detailed and robust plan in place that meets the needs of our student community in preparation for September 2020.

As ever, if you have any thoughts or questions, then please do get in touch.

Warm regards,

Dr Nikos Savvas

Chief Executive Suffolk Academies Trust