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14 May 2020

Dear parent/carers,

### **Coronavirus (COVID-19): Information for our Academies**

This short note outlines Esteem Multi-Academy Trust's (Esteem) approach to the latest government guidance. More detailed information will be shared over the coming days and weeks.

The continued efforts of staff and leaders in our academies, since 23 March, have been inspiring and the continuing commitment from all to ensure our best endeavours regarding the safety and education of our children and young peoples is to be applauded.

### **Government guidance on preparation for return of more children**

On 11 May, new guidance was published concerning the anticipated return of more children to early years, schools, and further education settings and of face-to-face support for some secondary and post-16 cohorts.

- [Actions for education and childcare settings to prepare for wider opening from 01 June 2020](#)
- [Coronavirus \(COVID-19\): implementing protective measures in education and childcare settings](#)
- [Opening schools and educational settings to more pupils from 01 June: guidance for parents and carers](#)
- Further guidance is expected shortly on the operation of early years settings.
- We have been advised to expect publication of a checklist for primary schools to use regarding safe opening.

### **Planning for changes from 01 June: Our Academies**

Early years, schools and further education settings are asked to plan for changes from 01 June at the earliest, ahead of confirmation that the government's 5 key tests are met.

Each of our academies is unique, and it is appropriate for each, along with the Trust, to follow the guidance and to determine what is right for them and their school community.

It is obvious that some hub arrangements will change as more school buildings are opened to more pupils, however, the principles of co-operation and resource sharing remains.

Our academy leaders will work with their colleagues, liaise with their peers and partners, and the Trust central team for support and guidance.

Your academy will contact you within the next few days to give further and more specific guidance and information on planning for the potential changes from 01 June 2020.

**If you have queries or concerns**, you should continue to contact the Trust central team on 01623 859749 or use the DfE Helpline on 0800 046 8687; 8am to 6pm – Monday to Friday and 10am to 4pm – Saturday and Sunday.

### **Planning for changes from 01 June: Esteem MAT**

Like all local academy trusts, Esteem is developing its own recovery plan, which will include guidance and activities to support schools to open their buildings to more and more pupils.

To inform the Trust's response, senior managers are meeting daily to ensure that we are up to speed with the newest guidance that is available to us and this is always communicated directly to the headteachers and leaders in each academy.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Julian Scholefield".

Julian Scholefield  
Chief Executive Officer  
**Esteem Multi-Academy Trust**