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22 September 2020

Dear parent/carer,

The reopening of all academies across Esteem Multi-Academy Trust has been hugely positive for a significant number of our children and families. Attendance levels are good, and all our academies have told us how thrilled they are to have their pupils and staff back together after several months.

These are, of course, extremely difficult times for schools around the country. There has been a vast amount of guidance from central government and, as you know, Covid-19 measures are in place to keep everyone as safe as possible. We can assure you that all Esteem academies have their own risk assessments and have taken every step they can to reduce risk. We hope your child has adapted well to the changes they have seen at school. For those who may be struggling, we have been working closely with our academies to make sure a high level of support is available, including that provided by our new inhouse Family and Student Support Team (FASST).

It is important for all children to attend school unless they, or a member of their household, are showing the symptoms of Covid-19 or have tested positive. School plays a vital role in each and every child's long-term development. The main symptoms are a high temperature (above 37.8C); a new, continuous cough; and a loss or change to your sense of smell or taste. If you are unsure about the government's stay at home guidance, you can find it in this link to the national website:

www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-stay-at-home-guidance/stay-at-homeguidance-for-households-with-possible-coronavirus-covid-19-infection.

Sadly, given the scale of the pandemic, it is clear that many schools across the country will need to close 'bubbles' or ask certain people to self-isolate at some stage. This is already happening, and we can assure you that each academy has a plan for blended learning (face-to-face, online and home) if they are affected. Schools are able to receive advice and support, from both a national and local level, if they are worried about anyone's safety or health. Please bear in mind that the actions taken by academies will always be in line with national Covid-19 guidance – this guidance must be followed by all schools. Our academies continue to do wonderful work in helping children and young people to enjoy the best start in life. In circumstances that none of us have ever faced before, thank you for supporting your academy.

Yours sincerely,

Julian Scholefield
Chief Executive Officer
Esteem Multi-Academy Trust