



ETONBURY
ACADEMY

Dear Parents and Carers,

As we enter the final week of the half term, I hope this email finds you and your families well.

I thought I would take this opportunity to share with you some of the updates that have resulted from the recent Government announcements of the phased return to school.

As you are all aware, schools have been asked to reopen from the 1st June for children in selective year groups. For Etonbury Academy, this means that we are planning to welcome Year 6 back to school from the 1st of June. In addition, it has been advised that Year 10 have some "face-to-face" contact, whilst still continuing with the virtual learning, and this contact takes place before the end of the academic year. There is a lack of Government guidance about the latter and when we have more detail we will be updating you on what this provision will be.

Since the Government's announcements, the Leadership Team and governing body, have worked tirelessly in collaboration with the BEST executive team, to undertake risk assessments and develop operational arrangements to ensure that pupils and staff can start to return to school safely, and in line with the Government guidelines. The welfare of our staff and students is our fundamental priority, and we will not reopen the school unless we are sure that we can do safely and securely. Whilst no one can guarantee that we could ever be a COVID free zone, we will always be cautious in our approach and will carefully follow the Government recommendations in our operational planning.

Over the past few days, we have been sharing the details of our proposed operational plans with the Trust and if they ratify our plans and share our confidence that we can reopen the school safely and securely, we will then communicate the details with you as to how we will be structuring the school day and running in-school classes for Year 6 students. However, I would like to make you aware that the final decision on the reopening of the Etonbury Academy will be made by the BEST Board of Trustees. This decision is likely to take place after the most up-to-date Government advice and guidance which is due to be announced on the 28th May. It will only be at that point that we will be able to confirm that our doors will open on the 1st June 2020.

I am acutely aware that this news will be pleasing for some, create anxiety for others and be disappointing for pupils who now face the prospect of not being with their friends and teachers before the Summer holidays. We don't underestimate how difficult this is for many families trying to juggle work, household chores and everyone trying to access technology at the same time. I have been proud to witness the outstanding dedication of the staff and the resilience, support and sense of fun with which our students and parents have navigated this crisis. I want to reassure you all that we are here to support all of our students, and that their welfare and education continues to be at the heart of every decision we make.

Kind regards

Ian Evason
Principal

Stotfold Road
Arlesey
Bedfordshire SG15 6XS

T 01462 730391
E etaoffice@bestacademies.org.uk
W www.etonbury.com
Principal: Mr Ian Evason

