

**Wednesday 6 May 2020**

**Dear Parents/ Carers,**

I hope this letter finds you all well. Heads of School have been keeping you all informed of what is happening in school. I am sure that you will have enjoyed the communications from school, such as the newsletters, social media posts and in some cases videos! What has been very touching has been the overwhelming sense from school staff of how much they miss the children and young people. We really are all looking forward to happier times in the future.

### **Staff making PPE for NHS, police and care workers**

You may have seen that a number of our staff have been supporting the NHS, care workers and the police by making protective visors and being part of the 'scrub hub' initiative. We are really proud of everyone who has helped, especially Mr Baseford and Mr Deidda for making the visors and all involved in making medical scrubs, particularly Mrs Carter from Hampton Gardens School and Mrs Hoare and Ms Hutchings from Hampton College. Many other staff have assisted with cutting the material from the pattern, getting it ready for those skilled colleagues to sew.

### **Schools re-opening**

I wanted to raise this as there has been much speculation in the media about when and how schools might re-open on a wider basis. As yet, this is still unclear. However, there seems to be a growing expectation that an announcement may be made on Sunday evening, when the government shares the wider strategy for exiting lockdown.

Headteachers and academy trusts have no additional knowledge or information about this at this stage, but what we are hoping and expecting is:

- That notice will be given of any additional opening (i.e. the hope is that there would be at least three weeks' notice of any change)
- That any return of students will be staged and phased
- Guidelines about safe operation will be issued to schools ahead of any increased opening (e.g. guidance about safe group size etc.)

The media has speculated about specific year groups returning to school. We do not yet know if this is the case (although this appears to be being widely discussed). If this is the case, we do not know whether this will be decided on a national level, or whether there will be any local or school autonomy about which year groups/ students would return first.

If an announcement does come this weekend about schools re-opening, we would hope to share some initial thoughts next week. As you can appreciate, there will be a lot of detail for us to work through and then share with you. We know that you will want to be very clear about the measures the school will put in place ahead of re-opening, even if only to small numbers.

I am sorry that there are no definitive answers at this stage. However, we felt it was important to acknowledge what is being discussed in the media. I can assure you that the school and trust

leadership teams will be planning and acting with safety as the uppermost consideration as we move forward. We are also in close liaison with Peterborough City Council and the other academy trusts in the city, to ensure that our plans will be in line with national and local expectations.

### **VE Day 8 May**

Friday is a bank holiday, which this year is commemorating the end of the Second World War in Europe 75 years ago. We hope that you all have an enjoyable day and also have chance to reflect upon the commemorations and historic nature of the day. Those of you who know your history will appreciate that VE Day was not the end of the war, and that the conflict continued for months in other parts of the world. This is something I have always been aware of, as my own grandfather served in the British Army in the Far East. Perhaps you have your own family history related to the war - this week would be the perfect time to talk to your children about your family/ friend's war-time experiences.

Our schools remain open on Friday to vulnerable children and the children of key workers. This is in response to a request from local NHS trusts and the local authority for schools to stay open. Children in school on Friday will be learning about VE Day and war-time Britain. This seems particularly apt, given how many comparisons have been made recently between the current situation and the challenges faced then.

### **Thank you for your support**

Thank you to everyone for your on-going tremendous support. Staff have been really buoyed up by your positive contact and emails.

Also, a **huge thank you** to community groups in Hampton and in Yaxley who have donated materials and funds to support those making scrubs.

Stay safe and strong until we see you again.



Helen Price  
Executive Headteacher