



19th May 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

Further to recent advice and guidance from the Government, I would like to set out our Trust's position in relation to the wider opening of our schools. At this stage, I would like to stress that any wider opening of the Trust schools will only be done once there is sufficient reassurance that it is safe to do so for both children and staff, which I am sure you would want us to have in place.

What has the Government asked schools to do?

Last week, against a backdrop of a slight easing of the current 'lockdown' procedures, schools were asked by the Government to begin preparing for 'some face to face' support to Year 10 students.

The government has produced a wide range of information detailing the actions schools would have to take prior to increased numbers of children returning. Some of these measures included:

- reduced class sizes to adhere to social distancing to a maximum of 15
- children to remain in the same group at all times with no mixing
- increased hand washing facilities
- no parents / carers allowed on site
- one way systems to be established in schools
- reduced timetable / flexible days / staggered start & finish times
- home schooling resources to continue to be available
- desks to be positioned 2m apart if possible
- staggered break times with no mixing of groups
- additional cleaning throughout the day and week

There are a number of other requirements but I am sure you can understand that in any reopening the children's experience in school will be far removed from their usual routine and timetable. All of this will be a challenge for school staff, children and parents / carers, but collaboratively we will all do our very best to support each other.

For clarity, our aim is to start to reopen Halewood Academy from June 8th for Year 10 pupils only. A plan on how this will be implemented, will be sent out in due course. We will also continue to provide the existing arrangement for designated key workers and vulnerable pupils.

Continued.../...

We Seek the Best



What about Attendance during any partial opening?

The Government guidance is clear: no school should penalise parents who decide to continue with home learning. Home learning resources and support will continue throughout any partial opening.

What will happen next?

We are now working on plans with the Trust, which have safeguarding for all as their focus. These plans will take time to finalise so we can be sure about what is safely achievable and possible at this time. We will endeavour for this to be available as soon as possible. The school will contact you in the coming days with the plans for face to face support for our Year 10 students.

Finally, this will probably be the last letter I send to you as Principal of Halewood Academy. As I said in the most recent newsletter, I start my new role as Principal in another school on Monday June 1st. I would like to thank all those parents, carers and students who have contacted me to say their own personal goodbyes. They have all meant so much to me. I have spent almost seven years as the Principal of this wonderful school. I have been blessed to have worked with some of the best staff any Principal could wish for and to have served this fantastic community. There have been ups and downs over those seven years. The Halewood community and spirit has always shone through. Indeed, over the last few days it has been so lovely to see so many people in the community producing their own multi-coloured versions of the Megan Pin. I am sure you are aware that Friday will be the third anniversary of the Manchester Arena attack. Please join us all at some point on Friday in reflecting quietly and remembering Megan Hurley and sending our very best wishes to her family, Jo, Mike and Bradley along with her extended family and friends. We all miss Megan very very much.

Thank you for your continued support in the current situation. Please keep safe and look after each other.

Best wishes,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'G Evans', written in a cursive style.

Mr G Evans
Principal