

Orchard School Bristol

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Headteacher: Mrs Julia Hinchliffe **MA (Hons), MA, NPQH**

18 May 2020

Dear Parent/Carer,

I am writing to you to update you on plans for opening schools further. I am sure you will have heard the discussions through the media, and the many viewpoints for and against this decision.

Primary schools received updates a few days ago on how the government would like them to open to more children. However, currently we have no specific guidance on how and when secondary schools are going to reopen. We know that at some point in term 6, Year 10 students will have the opportunity to meet some of their teachers to supplement home learning. The guidance we have so far is as follows:

For pupils in year 10 and 12, we are asking schools to supplement remote education with some face to face support for these year groups. We do not expect these pupils to return to school on a full-time basis at this stage, and so we do not expect a full timetable to be offered as schools look to minimise the number of pupils in school each day.

Every single member of staff at Orchard School would like the school back to normal, with students in school learning. However, I would like to reassure all parents, carers, staff and students that we will only open up further when we assess the risk as reasonable and manageable. Please note we continue to offer a place in school to study for the children of critical workers or students with EHCPs/social workers in all year groups.

I am expecting further advice from the government about opening further to Year 10 students very soon. I am working with Orchard School's multi academy trust (TiLA) and looking at government advice, health and safety requirements and teaching union guidance, to draw together the information we need to consider whether we can open further or not. Our Trust governance and senior leaders support me in the duty of care I have to all members of the school community. We all need to feel confident that the measures we are able to put in place reduce the level of risk to a reasonable and manageable level.



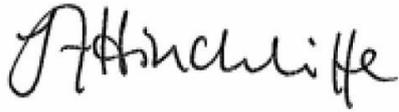
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I understand this is a difficult situation for all of us. In the longer term we hope we will be able to have all children back in school learning and developing, because their education is so important to all of us. For now, we will do the best we can within the Government's guidance and our own assessment of risk.

I will write to you again shortly when there is a further update. In the meantime, thank you for your support and understanding at this difficult time.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Julia Hinchliffe". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'J'.

Julia Hinchliffe
Headteacher