



2 April 2020

Dear Parent/Guardians

We hope that you and your families are staying safe and keeping well during these unprecedented times. At what would normally have been the end of term, we thought we would update you on how we have been navigating these uncertain times as a Trust, as we seek to support both our school based and wider communities.

As many of you know, we like to express our commitment to 'creating a vibrant community of exceptional people.' This has come to mean something quite different from what we might have imagined when we created the 5 Dimensions Trust. We are seeking to keep that sense of a vibrant community, whilst responsibly maintaining the social distance now required. We are also seeing how exceptional our young people are in a challenging time, supported by exceptionally committed staff who have risen so well to their fast-changing responsibilities.

We use the 5 Dimensions to communicate our aspirations for the Trust. The first one; collaborating to ensure truly holistic education', could not be more important at this time as we try to support the mental health and wellbeing of students at a time of understandable anxiety. This has led to changing pastoral systems and special needs provision; an array of emails and phone calls; on site school provision, and support with free school meals. The holistic welfare of our students has also been a key consideration in the home learning that has been provided.

Our second dimension is about 'academic rigour.' We hope that you can see the extent to which the two schools have quickly adapted to the use of home learning. This will develop and improve as we develop new schemes of work and projects based on some of the newly available resources. It will also be a focus of our work in responding to the guidance on calculated grades.

Our third dimension is about having 'a positive and high performing environment for staff.' Supporting our staff to support your children is absolutely key, and we have been adapting this over the last weeks. Thank you for being supportive and understanding in your expectations of them at this time. Many are looking after young children and are appreciating the challenges you may be having at home first-hand!

Our fourth dimension is 'creating a supportive partnership with parents, carers and families.' This has had to transform itself in recent days, but we know how many of you have appreciated it. We have had so many lovely messages of support that have encouraged staff across the Trust. Thank you for taking the time to do so.

Our fifth dimension is to create a 'meaningful partnership with our wider community.' One tangible aspect of this is the support that staff have demonstrated in supporting the children of key workers in recent weeks. The other challenge of creating that meaningful partnership with a community that is in isolation is actually an important opportunity. We very much look forward to being stronger together on the other side of this experience.

We hope that you keep well over the Easter season, and look forward to further updating you at what would normally be the start of the summer term. May we take this opportunity to give a public thank you to our students, staff, governors, trustees and all involved in our schools for the way in which we have demonstrated our values in recent weeks.

Kind regards

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