



23<sup>rd</sup> February 2021

Dear Parent

We warmly welcomed the Prime Minister's announcement that pupils can return to school on 8<sup>th</sup> March and we are looking forward to welcoming everybody back soon. Although the number of pupils logging on to remote lessons has been exceptionally high across the trust, face to face education brings many more benefits and I am sure the children and young people will be delighted to return to school.

We are now working on our re-opening plans. They will be relatively straightforward in primary schools and we expect to welcome back all pupils on Monday, 8<sup>th</sup> March or very shortly thereafter.

The plans are more complicated in secondary schools because we need to offer every student a COVID-19 test before they start lessons. Given the number of pupils in each year group, the restrictions we have on safe spaces and the rate at which we can process tests, it will take several days before everybody can start lessons. We are aiming to get every student back into school by Friday, 12<sup>th</sup> March. We are currently seeking clarification from the government about when we can start to test pupils. We hope we may be able to start before 8<sup>th</sup> March, so that some year groups can start on that day.

Headteachers will write to you later this week, to share the precise plans for opening. By this time, we will know exactly what we are allowed to do and when we can do it. It is likely we will have to suspend streaming at least some 'live' lessons, to give teachers time to plan for re-opening and ensure enough staff are available to supervise testing. If this happens, teachers will set tasks for pupils to complete independently.

The Secretary of State for Education has asked us to remind parents that attendance in school will again become a legal requirement from 8<sup>th</sup> March onwards. Obviously, this would not apply if your child is asked to start later in the week. In that case, attendance will become a legal requirement from the starting day. We understand some pupils may feel anxious and need help. Please do not hesitate to get in touch with each school if you know you will need some help. We will do all we can to support you.

For parents with children in year 11 or year 13, an announcement about the assessment system for GCSE, A' level and other qualifications is likely to be made later this week. Headteachers or I will contact you again when we know more.

May I finish by thanking you for your incredible support over the last few weeks? I know how challenging it is to support your children with their learning at home, particularly if you also have a job to do. The fact that pupils continued to join lessons throughout the last few weeks is a great tribute to your support and encouragement. Let us hope, however, it is the last time you are asked to do this!

Yours sincerely



John McNally  
CEO



08452 415175



SHARE Multi-Academy Trust,  
c/o Shelley College, Huddersfield Road,  
Shelley, Huddersfield, HD8 8NL



[info@sharemat.org](mailto:info@sharemat.org)



[www.sharemat.org](http://www.sharemat.org)

