



12 May 2020

Dear Parents and Carers

Following the Prime Minister's address to the nation on Sunday evening and the release of further information last night from the Department for Education, we are beginning to read and interpret the advice.

We appreciate the possible anxiety around the details of the Government's 'road map' to begin to remove the country from lockdown, especially in relation to children and young people returning to school.

We have heard the announcement at the same time as you, on Sunday evening, so we will need to take time to understand and unpick the details included in the Government's guidance. We will work out how opening our schools for more children can be achieved safely as more details of the Government's proposals emerge. We will keep you updated as we know more. However, in the interim period, please be assured that whatever happens every decision will take into account our absolute priority, which is the health and safety of our children, our students and our staff. We will not be rushing to make decisions that we later regret, so please bear with us while we take stock of the information as it emerges.

For the rest of this half term, your school remains open as it has in recent weeks - only for the children of key workers and children deemed vulnerable. We will continue to be providing free school meal vouchers for those who are eligible, and we are still waiting to hear further guidance regarding the previously promised laptop scheme for some year 10 students. It is GLF's intention that:

1. In our 'wider opening' planning, we will consider the needs and entitlements of our children and young people *in equal measure* to the needs and entitlements of our colleagues;
2. We will continue to manage the many and complex risks as best as we possibly can;
3. We will continue to use advice from the UK's Government, Civil Service, scientific and medical leaders to inform all of our immediate and medium-term planning;
4. Schools will remain as they are until we can ensure that we have sufficient staff in each school to keep your children safe;
5. Schools will remain as they are until there is clearer direction from the Government with regards to social distancing and other Covid-19-related guidance for schools. This will also determine who is to attend school and on which day, each week;
6. Each school is different in terms of its physical space. This will also contribute to which children will be able to attend school and on which day; and
7. Each school may have different 're-opening' processes and procedures, such as delaying the return for children so that staff are able to meet together first and be briefed by Headteachers and school leaders (our school colleagues have not met together in their schools since March).

At this stage, please be reassured that Heads, the GLF Schools' Leadership and our Trustees are all aware of the importance of accurate information before decisions are made and, subsequently, communicated with you. We do not wish to add to your burden at this time but we are conscious of the worry to your wider families if children and students return to school too quickly. In the meantime, the remote or home learning offered by each school will continue and will form part of our planned provision next half term.

We look forward to seeing children and young people back at our schools but only when the time is right and it is safe.

Thank you for your continued support.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Jon Chaloner". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'J'.

Jon Chaloner