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Uttoxeter Learning Trust
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24th February 2021

Dear Parent / Carer,

Letter regarding re-opening of schools - Uttoxeter Learning Trust (Covid-19)

I hope that you and your families continue to be safe and well in these challenging times. No doubt you will be aware that Public Health England and the Government have reviewed the infection rate in the UK and have agreed for us to re-open our schools to pupils from March 8 2021. Pupils attending the key worker schools during the period of lockdown and year groups up to and including Year 6 are expected to attend from Monday March 8 2021. For the remaining pupils a schedule of testing needs to be completed by the schools before home testing kits are made available in the longer-term. The Headteachers will communicate with you in greater detail as to the arrangements for your child before pupils return. You will understand that there will be a substantial amount of planning involved and the need to communicate revised procedures. We continue to thank our staff who are working tirelessly to provide both remote and face-to-face learning in addition to ensuring the safety of your children as well as all staff.

Schools will continue to provide remote learning for those studying at home due to isolation and or a staggered start for pupils of secondary age. I would like to thank you for your continuing hard work supporting pupils to study at home during this period of lock-down and for your responses to our online survey, the results of which we are currently reviewing to share successes with staff and help inform practice going forward. Our primary concern is the wellbeing of our community and we will be monitoring students closely when they return to ensure that any problems are identified.

All secondary school age pupils (Year 7 - 13) should now wear face coverings in classrooms as well as corridors and communal areas, and whilst moving around school unless they are exempt. This extra measure will be reviewed by the Government at Easter. Whilst the government is not insisting that pupils in years 5 and 6 are required to wear face coverings in classrooms, the Trust would encourage wherever possible those pupils in our middle schools to do so if they can. We hope that parents /carers can support to emphasise the importance of the safe removal of face coverings with their child, including not touching the front of their face covering when in use or when removing; disposing of temporary masks in the identified waste bins; and storing reusable coverings in plastic bags. It would also help for pupils to have a spare just in case. Regular handwashing/sanitising continues to be an essential routine in all of our schools.

The Trust will continue to follow the latest government guidance and keep this under review. We would also encourage you to continue to closely monitor the health of your children as we know you have been doing. If they show one or more of the following symptoms, a new and persistent cough, high temperature and loss of smell/taste, your child would be kept at home to self-isolate for ten days from when their symptoms started, and for longer if symptoms other than persistent cough and loss of smell/ taste continue. If a member of your family, living in the same household as the child(ren), is showing symptoms and following guidance has been forced to self-isolate, you will need to keep your child at home for 10 days. Once any child returns to school any related absence would need to be notified to the school immediately and would again be recorded as authorised due to the exceptional circumstances.

As a Trust we take our duty of care extremely seriously and we will keep you updated on any further developments as the need arises. Obviously this has been a difficult time for the whole community and I would like to take this opportunity to thank you all for your patience and understanding.

Yours Sincerely



Dr Sarah Clark (CEO Uttoxeter Learning Trust)

