5 January 2021

Dear All,

Following on from my letter to you all yesterday, I write to you again today as a result of the emergency lockdown announcement yesterday evening by the Prime Minister. I am sure many of you will be anxious about the next steps that will be taken by the Government and the measures going forwards. I would like to take this opportunity to reassure you that once again we will do everything that we can to maintain the safety of all staff and students across the Trust.

Many of you will have already seen risk assessments and updated procedures in readiness for return to school over the next fortnight and these risk assessments and procedures will continue to be updated as we welcome back vulnerable and key worker children during this lockdown period.

In light of the guidance regarding social gatherings and unnecessary contact we have taken steps to cancel all lettings within our academies. We will reinstate bookings as soon as we are able to.

Updated guidance for all with the latest information is available at https://www.gov.uk/coronavirus

It is more important now than ever that we take all appropriate steps to ensure minimal contact with others and that we are practising good hygiene and wearing our face masks. Whilst the wearing of face masks is not mandatory, please can I ask that all staff who are able to wear a face mask do so when they are in any of our academy buildings. In addition to this, if you are aware of anyone with symptoms including yourself, please ensure that you, or they self-isolate in line with the guidance and inform a member of staff at the relevant academy of intentions to self-isolate.

It has also been recommended that clinically extremely vulnerable individuals begin shielding and further information about this will be provided directly from your doctors.

We recognise this is a worrying time for everyone. If you have any questions or queries, please do not hesitate to get in touch with the academy and our teams will do their very best to respond to any enquiry as quickly as possible, but would ask that you bear with us during this challenging time.

Please look after yourselves. I look forward to seeing you all again soon.

Yours sincerely

Sarah Findlay-Cobb
Chief Executive Officer