

27th May, 2020

Dear Parent/Carers,

I am writing to inform you that the Board of Trustees met on Tuesday 26th May and were unanimous in their decision to 'reopen' our primary schools to increased numbers of pupils in Early Years Foundations Stage, Reception, Year1 and Year 6 on Monday 8th June.

The Trustees decision is based on our guiding principle that we are all committed to pupils returning to school as quickly as is possible, whilst ensuring that all Health and Safety considerations have been taken into consideration and acted upon. This view is shared by the Local Academy Committees who contributed their thoughts and opinions to last night's meeting. Trustees considered a plethora of information, both scientifically and educationally based in arriving at their decision. Schools will be 'signed off' by officers of the Trust before they will be allowed to reopen further, but we expect all measures, processes and protocols will be signed off in readiness for the 8th of June.

We will have comprehensive Risk Assessments in place which will minimise the risk for our staff and pupils. However, as indicated in previous correspondence, in order for schools to maintain our strict 2 metre social distancing requirements, the schools will be very different places to how they were when pupils left at the commencement of lock down. I draw your attention to the letter dated 21st May, 2020 from Mr Chapman.

Schools will have limited capacity as we are absolutely determined to ensure 2 metre social distancing in line with what is considered best practice for schools. In the event that there is any change to this requirement, and if Trustees believe it is safe to do so, we will give further consideration to increasing the number of places available to our pupils.

Please look out for the communications from your child's school which will give further information as they progress towards the 8th of June.

The Government and DfE released its long overdue guidance for secondary schools on Monday 25th May. The guidance makes it very clear that secondary schools should open more widely for students in Years 10 and 12 no earlier than Monday 15th June.

CEO | Mr Daryll Chapman
VICE CEO | Mrs Hazel Fox
CHIEF FINANCE & OPERATIONS OFFICER | Susanne Kiff

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Trustees have considered this guidance and agreed unanimously that the three secondary schools within the Trust will open in accordance with these guidelines, week beginning Monday 15th June. However, please note that the guidance categorically states that no more than 25% of the Year 10 and 12 cohorts will be allowed on site at any one time, thereby restricting quite considerably student numbers. I have outlined below the key points from the secondary guidance:

- Secondary schools should plan on the basis that from the week commencing 15 June, they can invite Year 10 and 12 pupils back into school for some face-to-face support with their teachers, subject to the government's 5 tests being met.
- Secondary schools should offer this face-to-face support to supplement the remote education of Year 10 and Year 12 pupils, which should remain the predominant mode of education during this term for pupils in these year groups.
- Schools are able to have a quarter of the Year 10 and Year 12 cohort (for schools with sixth forms) in school at any one time.
- Any plans that secondary schools have made for pupils to return earlier in June should be amended to commence from 15 June.
- Vulnerable children and children of critical workers in other year groups should be accommodated as currently or if currently in a hub then schools should explore how to bring them back to their normal school, subject to risk assessments.
- Secondary schools should aim to practise social distancing in line with the measures the government is asking everyone to adopt in public and in workplaces, including keeping pupils 2 metres apart from each other where possible.
- Ensuring sufficient distance between pupils is likely to mean classes are no more than half their usual size.
- Mixing between different groups of pupils should be kept to a minimum.
- Where rotas are used, secondary schools should avoid split day rotas within the same day and ensure that only a quarter of children are ever in the school on any one day. Vulnerable children and children of critical workers in all year groups should still be encouraged to attend full-time.
- Within the guidance above, schools have the flexibility to implement face-to-face support for Year 10 and Year 12 pupils in the way that best suits their circumstances

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I trust the above summary is helpful for you.

In the event that any future government announcements are made that would require us to reconsider these decisions please be reassured that we will keep you informed.

In the meantime, continued thanks for your support.

Yours sincerely
The Board of Trustees
Dartmoor Multi Academy Trust

Tania Skeaping – *Chair of Trustees*
Daryll Chapman – *CEO Dartmoor MAT*
Jane Dumeresque
John Lawlor
Philip Sanders
Jeanette Savage
Graham Briscoe
Morgen Witzel

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