

Ref: JC/SG

11 May 2020



Dear Parent / Carer

I am writing to you following the Prime Minister's announcement on Sunday evening of a phased road map for re-opening society and the economy. As part of this road map it was indicated that an easing of the restrictions currently in place for schools since the end of the Spring term may be lifted from the beginning of June. This is dependent upon a range of tests and assurances as to how the virus is spreading

I recognise that this has been a stressful time for young people and their families, and I am sure we are all looking forward to children returning to school when it is safe for this to happen. Once we receive further Government guidance about the steps we need to take, schools within Anglian Learning will begin their planning for this gradual re-opening. We will also be working closely with the Local Authority to help and support individual school leaders to make the necessary arrangements for their school.

Our top priority is the safety of pupils, their families and school staff. While we are determined for pupils to be back into the routine of classroom learning, every school's circumstances are unique. Schools will not be able to respond to the Government's decisions in the same way. For some of our schools, the size of classrooms and play areas may limit the number of children who can be accommodated safely under social distancing rules. In others, staffing shortages due to illness or shielding will limit the speed at which pupils can return. Some of the services that children and parents are used to – such as school meals and breakfast clubs, may not be available immediately in every school. Similarly, schools may not be able to deliver the full curriculum due to available staffing or restrictions that may need to be imposed to stop the transmission of the virus.

Once appropriate guidance has been received from the Department for Education, schools will need time to plan and make the necessary arrangements. Your child's school will communicate those arrangements to parents and pupils as quickly as they can. To support your child's school at this time, please do not make contact regarding re-opening arrangements unless your enquiry is an urgent one.

In line with the current national guidance, schools will continue to welcome pupils of critical workers and vulnerable pupils. Support for home learning will continue to be provided until guidance for doing so changes. With the possibility of some year groups not returning until late into the Summer term or even September, we are continually reviewing the support we offer to these pupils to minimise the impact of not being at school for such an extended period.

Thank you for your ongoing support and patience at this time.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "J Culpin".

Mr J Culpin
Chief Executive Officer