



Thursday 14 May 2020

Dear Parents and Carers

Future, phased re-opening planning – Christ's College

We recognise how difficult the current situation is for many families, and how vitally important it is for schools to re-open as soon as possible. The pressures on relationships in the home, on motivation for children to be learning, and to enable parents to go to work, are immense – to mention just a few!

You will likely have noticed, in the public media this week, news that schools are being asked to consider phased re-opening during the next half term before the summer break, if safe to do so. This would be in addition to the limited numbers of students already attending school.

Unfortunately, and whilst this situation is very changeable, **we cannot yet specify a date when the school may be able – safely – to bring additional groups of children in to school. Please do not therefore make plans to send your children into school after half term** (other than those who are already eligible).

The Chief Scientific Advisor to the Department for Education (DfE) said yesterday that there is a “low degree of confidence” that children transmit Covid-19 any less than adults. He added that he had not assessed how effectively school re-opening plans could be implemented, and nor did he know about the extent of advice received by the DfE on use of PPE (personal protective equipment) in schools.

Whilst these, and other, key questions remain unanswered we hope you will appreciate the obstacle to schools in planning sufficiently to provide for children's safe return. We seek the school's full re-opening as soon as possible, but if we don't re-open carefully and sustainably we would place our community at risk of harm, and also increase the likelihood of having to reverse the re-opening.

During this temporary period of children engaging from home with their learning and with their teachers, it is very much our intention to keep you up-to-date with progress being made and plans being developed. Our intense efforts are nevertheless underway in planning towards Christ's future safe re-opening, once risks are sufficiently understood, assessed, and can be managed effectively.

Yours sincerely

David Dawes
Executive Principal