

15<sup>th</sup> July 2020



Dear Waterton colleagues

First of all, I do very much hope that this communication finds you all in good health and positive spirits as we come to the end of what has been an extremely challenging academic year.

I am writing to you on behalf of Trustees, Governors, our communities and all our children. I wish to express our heartfelt gratitude for your continued endeavors. I wrote to you in April to express how privileged I feel to work alongside you all and I can say with all sincerity that this feeling has only grown stronger.

As I am sure you will be aware, the Government has announced that statutory attendance requirements will be reintroduced for all children from 1st September 2020. Therefore, as is our legal duty, Waterton academies will be welcoming back all children at the start of the Autumn term. Detailed opening arrangements in relation to individual academies will be communicated to colleagues by headteachers well in advance of September.

In preparation for welcoming our children back, headteachers are already updating academy risk assessments and planning for the safest environment possible. Given the diverse nature of our academies, it is inevitable that there will be variations in operational plans. However, be reassured that Trustees have instructed that all risk assessments must be checked against Government guidelines before being approved. In order to further reassure colleagues, all headteachers will make operational plans available to staff well in advance of opening. Moreover, headteachers will ensure that appropriate training is delivered before our children return.

We appreciate that the prospect of a full return in September may leave some colleagues feeling anxious. Please be assured that we will do all in our power to keep everyone as safe as possible. I would strongly encourage colleagues to talk to their headteacher directly if they have any concerns regards September. The trust will put together a FAQ document and this will be shared with all colleagues well in advance of September.

Finally, I am extremely aware that our academies and central services have remained open for our children since February half term. Such an intense and protracted period of delivery will have undoubtedly taken its toll in one way or another. I have therefore requested that all academies close down for the summer break. This particular shift has gone on well into overtime and my duty of care dictates that I must ensure you all come up for air and take some much needed rest.

Thanks again for your selfless dedication and care. Enjoy what is left of the summer and make sure that all you all stay safe and well.

Cheers

Dave

Mr. D Dickinson OBE  
CEO  
Waterton Academy Trust