

11th August 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope that you and your families are enjoying the summer break and have kept safe and well during this difficult time.

On July 9th we wrote to you promising an update early this week with details on our plans for re-opening our school. We have created an information booklet based on the latest government guidance up to the 10th August 2020. I hope you find this helpful. We have been working extremely hard to make as safe as possible for staff and students.

We are really looking forward to welcoming students back to Brooke Weston Academy on **18th August 2020** (the 17th August is a staff training day). The first two weeks back in August however, are technically part of our old (2019/2020) academic year and therefore subject to the DFE guidance for before the summer break. We have discussed this issue with the DFE, the County Council and our own Trust's risk committee, and we also realise that schools in neighbouring counties start returning for their new academic year from Monday 24th August 2020. We have therefore taken the decision to open Brooke Weston Academy for these two weeks using the DFE's updated guidance for the new academic year. You will be able to see from the parent/student information booklet that our operational model has therefore been designed and risk assessed against this guidance which can be found here <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/actions-for-schools-during-the-coronavirus-outbreak/guidance-for-full-opening-schools> .

There is one important caveat to our approach – until September 1st student attendance will remain a matter of parental choice (except for those students who were required to attend as last term daily). Of course, we'd very much like to see all students back next week and for school to begin to feel a little more normal, but the final decision is still yours for the initial two-week period. After this, and from the 1st September 2020, school attendance will become compulsory as per the DfE guidance.

The government guidance is continuing to develop, so it is inevitable that we will need to update our information for parents and students in the weeks to come, but I hope for now the booklet gives you a good understanding of how we intend to operate. The guidance can be found on our website indicated below. As always, please do not hesitate to get in touch if you have any questions or concerns by emailing enquiries@brookeweston.org.

Re-opening guidance: <https://www.brookeweston.org/attachments/download.asp?file=674&type=pdf>

Thank you for your patience and understanding as we move forward into the next academic year. We will continue to advise you of any further changes via our website, which remains our main source of information.

Yours sincerely



Shaun Strydom
Associate Principal