



LONGSPEE

20 May 2020

Dear Parents/Carers

I do hope that this letter finds you coping during these different and difficult times and that you have felt reassured and informed by the communications from Longspee Academy and from Sian Thomas (CEO, Ambitions Academies Trust).

As you may be aware, there was an announcement by the Government that we will work together to try to enable more pupils to return to school after half term. I thought it important to share with you that the Government Guidance for Longspee Academy (and all Specialist Schools) is different from the 'National Message' we are all hearing in the media – we are not being guided to have Year 6 and the youngest pupils on site from the 1st of June. The Government have asked Longspee Academy to work towards a phased return of pupils based on risk assessments, rather than year group.

At Longspee Academy, we will continue to look at working towards the phased return of more pupils. Given the size of our classrooms and of our whole school and, in line with the Government Advice on safety for Specialist Schools, this will mean that, after half term, there will be no change to the current school situation for the vast majority of our pupils. Once the Government announces further easing of restrictions (which they have tentatively said could be at the start of July), we hope this will allow us to review our current overall provision and we will be able to welcome more pupils back on site, in a careful, planned and supportive way, when it is safe to do so.

Currently, schooling for the whole country is very different and probably will remain so for the near future and, as we work together to ensure safety as well as learning, your communication and understanding is most appreciated. I know that you continue to be in contact with the school in many different ways during these worrying months, and I do thank you for your ongoing support.

Yours faithfully

Mr G O'Connell
Principal

Longspee Academy

Sian Thomas, BEd (Hons), CEO - AAT
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Part of Ambitions Academies Trust