

22 May 2020

A Message for the LAAT school communities from the CEO Jackie Waters-Dewhurst

Dear All,

I know that we all want the same thing; to get everyone back to school. Teachers want to be back teaching, I know how much they are missing their pupils. Parents and carers want to see their children developing and socialising and pupils want to be learning new and exciting things and being with their friends – it's been really tough being separated.

This return is what we are all working towards.

On the 28th May (next Thursday) the government will make its final review of the evidence and announce whether or not schools can begin to open on 1st June for some pupils, if it is safe to do so.

Last night the LAAT Board of Directors met to discuss re-opening the 16 schools within LAAT. They poured over 16 sets of risk assessments completed by each school, read advice from unions, Local Authorities and central government, and looked at the views of headteachers and parents and school staff.

Taking all of this into account alongside the needs of ALL pupils, they decided that to open on the 1st of June would be too early.

They are determined that LAAT schools should open AS SOON AS POSSIBLE and accept that there may be different opening dates for different schools, but need to make sure that this is done safely.

My team and I will continue to work with the leaders of your school to make sure that everything is in place for a safe return. Much of this work is well on its way.

We will also support staff in your school to extend, where possible, the learning opportunities for your children. Amongst other things, we are looking at the possibility for some year groups of delivering live online lessons where children can see and talk to both their teacher and their classmates.

I know that the decision not to open on the 1st June for the three year groups mentioned by the government will be greeted by some of you with relief and by some of you with disappointment and frustration. I ask for your patience and your continued support for your school. Together we are doing all that we can to make sure that, when we return, everyone is safe.

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The directors will meet at least fortnightly to continue to keep this decision under review so that, as soon as all is in place, we can open.

Thank you for all that you are doing in this very difficult time.

Have a great, but safe, bank holiday.

Take care and God bless,

Jackie

Jackie Waters-Dewhurst
CEO Lincoln Anglican Academy Trust