

Friday May 15th Covid 19 - Lockdown easing and school re-opening?

Dear Colleagues

As I am sure you are aware the government has announced a phased easing of the current lockdown measures and – depending on the data - they are asking some schools to partially re-open from June. The decision on whether to open or not rests with our Governing Body and they are meeting on Tuesday night to assess the situation and make a decision on whether to remain closed or to partially reopen. As part of that conversation I am writing to all staff to discover your views and find out if you are available to work.

I am working on the assumption that all of you are available to work unless:

- ! You are currently 'signed off' from work with a Medical Certificate.
- ! You have received a letter from the NHS identifying you as 'medically vulnerable'
- ! If you think you are 'medically vulnerable' but do not already have an NHS letter you will need to get a note from your GP
- ! You have children under 14 for whom you cannot find childcare
- ! You are entirely dependent on public transport to get to work – we may be able to offer late starts and early finishes avoiding peak travel times.

If you 'fall' into any one of these categories and are unable to report for work please email me: head@mapledown.barnet.sch.uk or **if you have any pressing questions or concerns please do not hesitate to get in touch and call me on 07804039804 – 'Office Hours' only please.**

Ideally the advice is for people to walk – cycle or drive to work. (Not car sharing)

To be clear all workplaces have an absolute legal duty to provide a safe and healthy working environment and **IF** we are to re-open at some point in the summer term we will have to create a '**Covid-Secure**' working environment. This would involve Risk Assessments – new working practices – reduced numbers of pupils and staff in school – regular cleaning of common surfaces – the provision of PPE etc. etc.

As with so many pronouncements from the government I am not sure that they fully appreciate the complexity of schools like ours.

If you have a view on whether the school should open or not please contact your Staff Governor Christa Lewis and she will relay them to the Governing Body on Tuesday: christa@mapledown.barnet.sch.uk

We will let you know the Governors decision next Wednesday and until then our current arrangements remain in place. Thank you for your patience and understanding. Stay safe.

Regards

Steve Carroll