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Dear Parents/Carers and Students

Firstly and most importantly, I hope this letter finds you and your family well as we begin a summer term the like of which we have never experienced before. These are unprecedented times and I wanted to provide you with an update on what is happening within the education sector and how the Hope Learning Trust are responding to the ongoing Covid 19 crisis. We are in uncharted territory and we don't yet know when the students will return to school or the conditions under which they can return. So, in the meantime, we are doing everything within our power to support our students during this difficult time.

As you will be aware, our schools are providing emergency care to the children of key workers and vulnerable families within our communities. Our schools have established rota systems so that staffing is in place for these children with everyone else working on producing online learning materials for the vast majority of students who are learning from home. I would like to encourage all students to access these excellent resources and to make the most of this time. Please refer to your school's website/Google classroom to access these learning materials.

The Government has not given an indication of when schools are likely to reopen and I wanted to reassure you that all Hope schools will only reopen when the Government's expert medical advice says it is safe to do so. We will follow national guidelines for the safety of our students, staff and the wider community. Furthermore, conversations are ongoing at Local Authority level to ensure that there is a joined-up approach to reopening. School leaders are discussing the different practical procedures which will be needed to reopen our primary, secondary and special schools, as each setting will present its own challenges.

Please be assured that the Trust is working hard to prioritise the following key initiatives:

- collecting assessment data for the statutory end of Key Stage assessments;
- continuing to monitor our most vulnerable families;
- making contact with all families to check how students are and see if they can support them to access the online learning resources;
- continuing to develop new curriculum material for students' online work;
- providing IT equipment for vulnerable learners (once the Government has issued directives);
- continuing to support families to receive their vouchers for food in lieu of Free School Meals;
- planning for the reopening phase.

To be absolutely clear, Hope Learning Trust is committed to ensuring that our pupils and staff return to work in our schools as soon as possible but only when the Government's expert medical advice says it is safe for schools to do so.

Finally, I wanted to thank you all for supporting our schools and for all the lovely comments we have received in support of our staff. At this time, the most important thing is to safeguard everyone's health and well-being so please continue to follow the Government's guidance.

We look forward to a time when our schools are filled with our students again.

Kindest regards

Brian Crosby | CEO
Hope Learning Trust York