



The Academy of Central Bedfordshire

Executive Headteacher: Mr P Cohen

Stotfold Campus, Church Road,
Stotfold, SG5 4NE Tel: 01462 410450
Head of School: Mr J Dodd
Email: admin@acb.beds.sch.uk

Kingsland Campus, Parkside Drive,
Houghton Regis, LU5 5PX Tel: 01582 343878
Head of School: Mr P Green
Website: www.acb.beds.sch.uk

Dear Parent /Carer

We are sure that you all listened to our Prime Minister's speech on Sunday 10th May, and have followed the subsequent media coverage and speculation, messaging from unions and fluctuations in the daily numbers of COVID-19 infections and deaths. The amount of new information everyday will undoubtedly be creating a mix of emotions among parents/carers, your children and school staff. We really do appreciate that all of this puts huge pressure on you at a time when you are being asked to do something that has never been done before and for which there is no blueprint that can be applied. We are also sure that you will be keen to understand how The Academy of Central Bedfordshire is planning to respond to the latest guidance.

In response, we would like to share the following with you. Having worked at The Academy of Central Bedfordshire since our opening in 2013, we have been in the privileged position to look after many children, work with a group of highly dedicated staff and see the school grow from strength to strength. Throughout our time at The Academy of Central Bedfordshire, the key to the school's success has always been the focus on the child being at the centre of everything the school does. We can assure you that this remains the primary factor in all decisions being taken regarding your child, both since this crisis started, and as we try to interpret new guidance.

You will be fully aware that one of the key messages from the government in managing the spread of the virus has been the advice around social distancing; 'If you meet others to ensure that you stay at least 2 metres away'. In our planning, we will attempt to develop a system that allows your child to maintain the 2 meters distance, but we must be honest and state this may not be possible at all times. We will do our utmost to ensure that the distance is maintained but the very nature of our school with the physical layout of the school; the width of the corridors, the number of toilets and the size of many of the teaching spaces are significant issues that further challenge the ability to enforce any 2m rule. Key to the success of social distancing within the school is the willingness of our students to follow the new methods of working.

Do we want the children and staff back in school; of course! A return to 'normal' is what we are all looking forward to. We also recognise that many of you are facing a wide range of challenges currently and we wish to support in any way we can. However, we are not going to state to you that we can achieve social distancing in our school. We will make things safer, we can plan to

reduce the risk, but as we increase the numbers of pupils and staff that are in the school, the risks of COVID-19 will still be there. Currently, there is insufficient testing and no vaccine; there is just the possibility that things will be okay. That's all we have at the moment and 'okay' is not good enough when it comes to the children that attend The Academy of Central Bedfordshire.

What we are clear about is that we do not want to be forced to make decisions to increase the numbers of children and staff in school to simply evidence that we are in-line with current guidance. Trying to get back to 'normal' too soon could increase the possibility of pupils or staff contracting the virus. We are not prepared to be responsible for losing a member of The Academy of Central Bedfordshire Family by trying to follow the recommendations of someone who does not know our school and the children and staff that make it such an amazing place to be a part of.

We believe that schools will need to make their own judgments on how to plan for the safe opening of their settings based on their knowledge of their school community and premises. We can assure you that we are working with our Leadership team and Governors to plan for a reopening of the school to some students, with this occurring when we are confident that the level of risk of attending school can be managed safely.

Your child's key worker will continue to contact you regularly to check on your child's wellbeing and support with the work that staff will continue to provide your child with virtual lessons remotely. Please use these opportunities to share any problems you are experiencing and discuss your thoughts about your child being in school whilst this crisis continues.

This crisis will pass, and children will catch-up with their education. Our priority is ensuring everyone in The Academy of Central Bedfordshire family remains as safe as possible until we all have the assurance that it is safe to return to 'normal'.

We can confirm The Academy of Central Bedfordshire will continue to provide access to our virtual provision for the week commencing 1st June. We will review the updated guidance after the 28th May in order to decide what our method for working with your child will be from the week commencing 8th June.

We would like to invite you to complete a [survey](#) that will provide us with further information that will assist us with planning for the future. If you have any questions please email them to covid19@acb.beds.sch.uk.

Stay safe

Kind regards,

Mr Dodd (Head of School - Stotfold) and Mr Green (Head of School - Kingsland)