



Friday 10 July 2020

Dear Staff and Parents

As we emerge from this world wide crisis we are now beginning to truly understand the effects the coronavirus pandemic has had and continues to have on our lives. We know that many of us or people we know have lost loved ones and our thoughts and prayers are with them at this very difficult time.

The government continues to provide guidance as to how we can safely open our schools to more children. This is very important and many other organisations are involved in this process so that we do so knowing it is safe for everyone.

These same restrictions exist in many other aspects of society which have impacted on our ability to see family, friends and even do the basics like shopping. It is a relief to us all that we are now seeing more people engaging with these most basic of human activities.

Therefore, it will not come as a surprise to you that the construction industry amongst many others has also been affected. This has led to a delay in our move to Chalvey in September.

As a result of this the Department for Education, Slough Borough Council and the SASH Education Trust have been working closely together to support Grove in September with a contingency plan that provides further temporary accommodation for a period of time in the Autumn term.

In managing the additional requirements for classes or year groups to be in bubbles we have agreed in principle to use indoor and outdoor space at Arbour Park and Slough Hockey Club as our additional accommodation to ensure that 100% of children can safely return to full-time education in September.

This will provide all 11 Primary classes (Reception – Year 6) with a home base at Wellington Street for all 5 days. In secondary two year groups will then be at Wellington Street each day taught separately in the upper east and west wing of the building, one year group at Arbour Park and the other year group at the hockey club.

This provides complete separation of years which we have to achieve under the DfE guidelines. All year groups (Year 7 – Year 10) will rotate around the different venues throughout the week to ensure that different learning experiences and subjects are covered with funding and transport to and from Wellington Street currently being sourced.

This is in addition to having to manage different groups/bubbles (Reception – Year 10) all needing to start and finish the day at different times.



As this national crisis continues to cause us all difficulties we ask for your continued support and patience whilst these arrangements are finalised. We will of course communicate them to you at the earliest opportunity.

We are so grateful to still be in a position that the move to Chalvey is still planned for the Autumn term and we cannot thank our construction company, Wates, enough for getting this far and limiting the effect of this pandemic on our move into our wonderful new build.

We understand that this type of news is disappointing, frustrating and the last thing we want to be dealing with but I can assure you that everyone connected with this project has done everything to ensure Grove Academy, its students, staff and parents move into Ladbrooke Road, Chalvey as soon as this pandemic allows us to whilst still having to work within socially distancing conditions and DfE guidance.

Nick Caulfield – Executive Principal,

The SASH Education Trust