

**Members of the Trust:**

Angel Oak Academy  
Applegarth Academy  
Beddington Park Academy  
Benedict Academy  
Breakwater Academy  
Burfield Academy

David Livingstone Academy  
La Fontaine Academy  
Gonville Academy  
Hawkes Farm Academy  
Heathfield Academy  
High Cliff Academy

Park Academy  
Phoenix Academy  
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STEP CEO: Mr M Ducker OBE  
STEP Deputy CEO: Mr P Glover

Tuesday 23rd February 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

As I am sure that you are aware, yesterday the Government announced that from Monday 8<sup>th</sup> March, all primary school pupils will return to school.

Throughout the pandemic, STEP has used three core principles to guide decision making across the Trust – *safety*, *community* and *choice*. Ensuring the safety of children and staff has always been our top priority, alongside doing all we can to support the communities we serve; which has included respecting the individual context of each family and, therefore, giving parents as much choice as possible. Throughout the ongoing pandemic, all STEP Academies have abided by these principles, within the guidance set out by the Government.

With the reducing infection rates and use of testing, we are very much looking forward to all pupils returning to school. Whilst I am aware that this remains an anxious and challenging time, it is important that all children return. Please be assured that each Academy has completed a rigorous risk assessment to reflect the changes to pupils returning and we will continue to put safety first. In the unfortunate instance where a bubble has to close due to a positive case, your child's Academy will contact you, as before, and remote learning will be provided.

Over the coming few days, your child's Academy will send information detailing how the return will work. However, if you have any specific queries, please do not hesitate to contact the Academy directly.

Finally, I would like to thank you for your continued support throughout recent months. The many messages of support and encouragement have been greatly appreciated by the whole STEP team.

Yours sincerely,



MR M DUCKER  
STEP CEO