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To: Headteachers, Principals, Chairs of Governing Boards, Early Years Leaders and Managers, FE Colleges and Multi-Academy Chief Executives

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Our ref IP/VB

Your ref

Date 15 May 2020

Dear colleague

### **Re: Schools and Settings Reopening**

I hope you, your learners and staff are all keeping safe and thank you for your continuing support of the county's children and young people.

By now you will be planning ahead for your young people to return to structured learning in line with the Government's recommendations. During this week, officers have continued to meet with a variety of stakeholders including headteachers, Derbyshire Parent Carer Voice, unions, transport providers and the Department for Education. Clearly at the forefront of your mind will be the safety of your learning community and the DfE published further guidance on 14 May 2020. A link to the guidance is below:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/preparing-for-the-wider-opening-of-schools-from-1-june/planning-guide-for-primary-schools>

Some key areas of the guidance to follow are listed below:

- You should remain in contact with your staff to determine their welfare.
- You should remain in contact with your parents and carers to ascertain likely numbers of young people who will expect to return to your setting, school or college from 1 June 2020 at the earliest or when the Government determines it is safe to do so. In addition, please also encourage young people not to travel by public transport where possible and also establish how many young people have no option but to travel by bus or taxi. Space on school and public transport is likely to be severely restricted.
- You should undertake a health and safety check of your setting or school and a full risk assessment regarding young people returning to your setting, school or college.
- You should undertake a risk assessment around staff returning to the workplace. At the moment, you should continue to follow the Government's advice and most of your staff will have been using their home as their working base. Therefore, please follow the Government's advice about undertaking an online staff meeting instead of your staff coming into school for such a meeting.

Further guidance is likely to be published in the forthcoming days.

I recognise that a number of schools and settings have enquired about personal protective equipment (PPE). The Government has also updated its PPE advice for schools and the link to that advice is shown below:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/safe-working-in-education-childcare-and-childrens-social-care/safe-working-in-education-childcare-and-childrens-social-care-settings-including-the-use-of-personal-protective-equipment-ppe>

Finally, we have also uploaded on to SchoolsNet the phase specific parts of the Government's guidance from earlier in the week. This does not substitute for fully reading all of the guidance, but it may provide you with a summary to provide to your staff or governors.

Thank you for your continuing support.

Yours sincerely

*Iain Peel*

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