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Corvus Learning Trust

Update

3rd April 2020

At Corvus Learning Trust we have been working closely with all four of our wonderful schools during this difficult and unprecedented time. We just wanted to update you on the actions our schools have taken and more importantly to extend our thanks to our school community for the outstanding way this situation has been handled by everyone involved.

Firstly, our brilliant teaching staff, many of whom have continued to work putting the needs of our pupils first. As you are aware, all four schools remained open until they were instructed to close for the majority of pupils at 3.30pm on Friday, 20th March 2020. However, since that date, they have remained open for the children of our keyworkers and those considered vulnerable. This has obviously involved our teaching staff making themselves available to welcome and care for those pupils requiring their support. We are so grateful to all our staff who have either been in school or continued to work from home to provide learning opportunities for our pupils.

The volume, quality and variety of learning tasks that have been provided, either online, through worksheets or class packs which have been sent home, has been outstanding. We are also aware that school PTAs and school governing bodies have been providing assistance to their schools and for this we thank them. Our thanks also go to all of our support staff who are looking out for individual pupils keeping the school open and ensuring good communication can continue.

Our Headteachers have quite simply been amazing during the past few weeks, going above and beyond in terms of their working hours and the leadership of their school and community. The manner in which they have responded to changing circumstances and government guidance has been hugely impressive. Throughout this difficult time, they have made important decisions and shown sound judgement, keeping everyone fully informed.

We would also like to extend our gratitude to our parents who have supported our schools and staff in adapting to changes, sometimes on a daily basis! We do hope you are finding the work provided by our schools to be useful and appropriate. We would like to stress that your health and well-being and that of your family are hugely important to us – so please use your judgement to ensure you do not put yourself or your children under too much pressure. Maintaining a positive family dynamic through this time is incredibly important, especially as we do not know how long this situation may last.

Last, but not least, a huge thank you to the pupils who have understood the seriousness of the situation and worked with the teachers to ensure their learning continues effectively. This will be a difficult time for our young people who will be missing the routine of going to school and seeing their friends, especially after more than a few days of being at home. A special mention also, to our pupils who would have been sitting national tests and exams this summer term. We are very aware that these are uncertain times for you, and rest assured that the schools and the Trust will do all we can to support you through the next few months.

When we became a Trust one of our core values was to support each other through collaboration and sharing of best practice. This awful situation has given us the opportunity to show how well we do work together and the advantage of a shared team approach. The Trust, our Headteachers and schools have been in constant communication, sharing information, ideas and agreeing on ways forward and we hope our parents and families have seen the benefit of this.

An example of this collaboration is our forthcoming Easter provision where children of keyworkers and vulnerable children from across the Trust have been invited to attend our club at Edgbarrow school. This will be provided by the StepUp Foundation with whom we have been liaising closely and who will follow government guidelines for working with children in schools during this pandemic. The club will be overseen by a senior member of staff each day, including Good Friday and Easter Monday. We are so grateful to any staff who will be working over the Easter holidays to support our pupils.

We want to be very clear during this difficult time, your health and wellbeing are paramount. We want everyone to stay safe and listen and adhere to the advice we are all being given.

As a Trust we will be in contact again after the Easter holidays to keep you informed of developments across our four schools.

Thanks again to everybody for your help and support.

Happy Easter, stay safe.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'R P Elsey'.

Bob Elsey
CEO