

A message to the city's families from Southampton's Schools and Colleges

Teachers and support staff in Southampton's schools and colleges would like to thank you, the city's parents and carers. With very little notice, you have stepped up to work alongside us as we continued the learning journey for our city's young people at home. Many of us are parents too; we know what a challenge it has been to keep our children learning. Every hour of learning that has taken place will have made a positive difference to our children's futures.

We thank you for your partnership.

There is no substitute for a normal routine at school. We are delighted that, alongside the rest of the nation, we can re-open fully from September for all children and young people.

We would like to remind all families that the expectation is for all children and young people to return to their school or college in September.

We know that some children and their families who have not been in school during this time may be anxious about coming back. We understand. School and college leaders across the city, supported by our colleagues at the local authority and in liaison with Public Health England South East, are working hard to ensure that our reopenings happen safely. Our ambition is to deliver as full a curriculum as we can while continuing to minimize the risks posed by the virus.

We are grateful that the infection rates in our region are low. However, we remain vigilant and ready to act swiftly if this changes.

There will be changes to your child's school or college experience for a period of time. We appreciate your support as we make and communicate these changes. It is important to remember that every school and college is different, both in terms of the communities they serve and the sites that they occupy. Each site is making changes based on its unique set of circumstances.

Our common aim is a safe education for all.

We hope you have a safe and sunny summer and look forward to seeing you in September.

Signed on behalf of the city's education sector by:

- Zoe Evans, Chair of the Southampton Special Schools Heads Conference
- Amanda Talbot-Jones, Chair of the Southampton Primary Headteachers Conference
- James Rouse, Chair of the Secondary Heads Forum
- Alex Scott, Chair of the Post-16 Forum
- Stuart Woods, Chair of the Southampton Education Forum
- Derek Wiles, Head of Education and Learning, Southampton City Council
- Debbie Chase, Interim Director of Public Health, Southampton City Council
- Councillor Darren Paffey, Cabinet Member for Children and Learning, Southampton City Council
- Sandy Hopkins, Chief Executive, Southampton City Council