Covid-19 update from CEO of Summit Learning Trust – Monday 14th September 2020

We've all been delighted to welcome our pupils and students back to their academies over the last two weeks. Without exception, and because of the excellent preparation and planning by our site teams and academy leaders, the return to school has gone extremely smoothly. Pupils and students have behaved incredibly well, and teachers report that they are all keen to get on with their learning.

All our academies have put stringent cleaning and operational measures in place to make sure that they are as COVID secure as they can be. Across the Trust we have one-way systems, bubbles and groups, staggered breaks and start times.

However, the national and local situations continue to affect all schools.

You will know from the news that from Tuesday 15th September, increased measures will be put in place in Birmingham and Solihull, so that people from different households may not mix socially indoors or outdoors. Currently this does not affect work, travel or schools.

Because we want to keep all our staff and students safe, we have decided that from Tuesday 15th September, in line with the local lockdown, it will be mandatory for staff and students to wear face coverings in corridors and communal spaces in **our secondary and 6th form academies** - but not in classrooms. This is to further reduce the possibility of any transmission of the virus.

Handwashing and keeping a safe distance are the most important things that we can all do to stay safe. Please impress upon your children how essential it is that we do this so that schools can remain open.

We will, as always, continue to follow the DfE and government guidance, and work with Public Health England where cases of Coronavirus appear in students, pupils or staff. Your child's academy will be in close contact with you throughout this time – but rest assured, we are doing everything we possibly can to keep your child and our staff safe.

Catherine Anwar

Chief Executive Officer