

# Chair of Trustees Address

12.01.2021

Welcome back. I hope you have had a calm and relaxing time after the uncertainty which preceded the Christmas break. I trust that you and your family stayed safe and well and that you are now prepared to face the challenges of the current situation.

As you are already aware, the prevailing condition does not reflect an improvement on earlier days: the infection rate is reported to be much higher than previously. It is therefore more worrying this time round than it was at the onset of the pandemic. It is imperative that everyone needs to be more careful even with one's designated bubble, especially if you happen to be working in school environment.

Risk assessment informs the new plan of action that is being carried out by the school. This will be reviewed frequently, perhaps even daily. You will be advised by your headteacher of any changes. Please be advised that the Trustees are fully aware of the arrangements, which are informed by clear directives from the DfE and Health Authority. The Board also offer support to all employees of Mayville. Your commitment is fully appreciated.

You have already received and have access to a range of information about how to respond to situations in the present climate. Some sources are clearly credible and offer useful information, some of which may contribute to some positive outcomes. However, please note that lawful instructions may be issued only by your employer. If in doubt, please talk to the headteacher. All other entities are free to offer helpful advice but not instruction. I am confident that you will make the right choice.

Unfortunately, our working environment and methods are now different, even if becoming familiar. Clearly, you have been preparing well to cope with the challenges of the new mode of working, with increasing confidence. You are now in a much better position to carry out your duties using your newly acquired skills. Do note that the Board of Trustees and Members' Board appreciate the progress you have made under the present conditions and will continue to support the entire team.

It has been reported that you have been working closely and liaising with parents and carers, forging a stronger link between Mayville and the local community. I am sure this will continue and will yield improved outcome for our pupils.

I am sure that you already know that the risk of infection and poor outcome is much higher in the current circumstance. Please be reminded that health and safety is of prime importance, not only to you, but also to the Mayville family. Your safety must therefore always be your priority.

Walter Harding

Chair of Trustees

Urbis Academy Trust