**Lancashire Association of Secondary School Headteachers (LASSH)**

**Joint Statement on the reopening of secondary schools to more students from 1st June 2020**

As Headteachers we are committed to the education and the wellbeing of the children in our care. We all recognise that both of these are best served by opening our schools to more students as soon as we can do so safely and no sooner.

The DfE’s guidance, published on 11th May, states, “*from the week commencing 1st June at the earliest, we will be asking secondary schools to offer some face to face support to supplement the remote education of year 10 and year 12 alongside the full time provision they are offering to priority groups.”* As headteachers we believe that it is right to provide such support as soon as we can. However, we will only do this when we as headteachers, with our Governors / Trust Boards, have assessed it to be safe.

We know that the COVID-19 virus is still widely prevalent across England and that the North-West of England is currently one of the worst affected regions. We also know that the conditions for wider opening of schools contained in Step 2 of the UK Government’s COVID-19 recovery strategy have not yet been met and will not be reassessed until shortly before 1st June.

Our schools will approach wider opening in different ways depending on their local circumstances. However, we all agree that:

* We will not expand our opening to any more groups of students until the conditions needed to move to Step 2 have been met AND we are satisfied that it is possible to open safely. We will not put a particular date above the safety of our children and their families, our staff and their families, and our wider communities.
* We will not seek to undermine the advice given to us and our staff by our professional associations on wider re-opening.
* We will continue to support the remote education of all our students, to meet our responsibilities to safeguard students and staff members, and to arrange on-site provision for children of key workers and vulnerable students.

15th May 2020