

4th March 2021

Dear Parents and Carers

I am writing on behalf of the Trust to thank you for your support during both this and previous lockdowns as well as during the temporary bubble closures that we had to introduce at various points in the autumn term. Like you, we are looking forward to the return to some sort of normality from next Monday.

We understand the enormous responsibility and challenges that remote learning has placed on parents, carers and pupils as you have had to create time, space, routine and support at home. We realise that all our families are experiencing challenges and that there are many other needs, in addition to home learning, that are critical as we work through this crisis together.

We know that this has been new and different way of teaching and learning for both pupils and staff. I am so proud of all our pupils for their dedication and efforts with continuing their schoolwork during this emergency. Likewise, the staff have shown an incredible talent to upskill and their use of the technology and both rigorous and innovative planning has been hugely impressive in making learning relevant and enjoyable.

We have seen extremely high levels of engagement and this is not only down to the motivation of the pupils and the respect for their teachers, but to the supportive environments that you have created at home. Frankly, you have done an outstanding job!

We have been planning assiduously for pupils' return next week. Despite the heroic efforts of families and staff there will, inevitably, be gaps in pupils knowledge and skills. During the next 3 weeks our focus will be to:

- Settle all pupils back into school, establish good learning routines, concentrate on pupil well-being, and ensure we provide a broad and balanced curriculum so pupils can enjoy socialising, the arts and sport amongst other subjects
- Consider what needs to be done to address the educational gaps and well-being needs of pupils and staff

The summer term and beyond will see intensive efforts to close these gaps and I would like to thank you in advance for your support with this. Once again, this will need to be a combined effort if we are to successfully recover the time lost during the pandemic. Thank you once again for all that you have done to support your child and his or her school during lockdown. It has been a truly collaborative effort and has brought out the very best of everyone in the Trust.

Yours sincerely



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