



AVANTI FIELDS

Excellence · Virtue · Devotion

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Principal: Ms Emma Taplin

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Dear parents

I hope you are all safe in well. Yesterday brought some concerning news of the increased number of positive test results in Leicester over the past couple of weeks. Schools have been reassured that there is no need for schools to change their current practice and we continue to mitigate risks through careful management and preventative practices. However it is a sobering reminder of the importance that we all continue to follow social distancing and hygiene measures at all times.

Despite this, there is still much to be thankful for; the news, that in response to Marcus Rashford's open letter to MPs the government reversed their decision regarding the provision of free school meals over the summer is a hugely positive move and I know will have a huge impact for some families. It was also welcome to hear that the government will be investing £650 million to be shared across state schools to support them to put measures in place to help pupils catch up. There will much to consider and we will work carefully to assess what 'catch up' is required by individuals and put together a plan for what our students need and when they need it, supporting them in a measured and caring way.

We very much look forward to when we can have students in school again and work with them face to face. It has been a very long time for the majority and we were pleased to hear that we now have the option to invite students in to school for mentoring, in line with the revised guidance from the government this week. This will be a 20 minute mentoring session with tutors. The offer is to all students and the choice is entirely for parents to decide, but we hope that for those who wish to take up the opportunity it will provide a valuable opportunity for a face to face discussion (held within all social distancing guidelines) and pick up on any issues, concerns and offer help with work or well being. Tutors will be making calls to all parents over the next week and from that we will look to schedule appointments, provided that it is safe to do so.

Happily, Avanti Fields students have contributed to some exciting achievements this week. Firstly we heard that we had been part of the world record holding team for participating in the world's largest online art lesson. Mrs Marshall and participating students, along with at least 45,600 other people from across the planet, simultaneously sat and drew a blue whale with illustrator Rob Biddulph. Secondly, thanks to the fantastic contributions of so many of our students, Avanti Fields won the participation award in the Leicester City SSPAN Virtual Athletics competition, beating eight other Secondary schools - a fantastic achievement!

Finally, I have attached the latest pictures of our new site. Despite the challenge of the Covid crisis, the contractors have made great progress, are still on track and we can now see the skeleton of a school building beginning to emerge. The images are exciting, encouraging and a taste of better times to come.

Do stay safe and well.

Emma Taplin
Principal

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