



AVANTI FIELDS

Excellence · Virtue · Devotion

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Principal: Ms Emma Taplin

10th July 2020

Dear parents

In this last letter of the summer term, I am writing at the end of the strangest and possibly the most challenging term I have ever experienced in my career. To lead a school when there are almost no students, or indeed staff in the building has felt strange and sometimes sad and disorientating. To maintain interaction with our young people and their families by remote means has been hard but despite this, we have been determined to keep our sense of community. I have to thank all my team for their tireless efforts in setting work, sharing feedback and simply “checking in” with students on a daily basis. I know from the number of messages of thanks from parents that many of you share this view- thank you.

The gratitude shown by our students has been humbling and touching. The emails, poems and videos we have received are a wonderful reminder of what makes our school and our students so special. To know that we have been able to support, help and impact is the best reward, even if we haven’t been able to see our students face to face.

This week we have loved marking and celebrating the end of term as a school, albeit remotely. The submissions for challenge week have been rolling in and it has been great fun to see and enjoy the skills, creativity and talents of all the contributors and to award their achievements – certificates will be coming in the post!

As much as we look forward to chance to rest and re-charge, we are also looking forward to the start of next term and a return to a kind of familiarity. We have been developing our plans for the return to school next term. The staggered start to term will run as follows;

Tuesday 1st September 2020 – Year 7 only

Wednesday 2nd September 2020 – Year 7 only

Thursday 3rd September 2020 – Year 7 and Year 8 only

Friday 4th September 2020– Year 7, 8 and 9

In line with government guidance, we have redesigned our timetable to keep students in year group bubbles, minimising movement around the school whilst keeping a broad and balanced curriculum. Students will be managed in their bubbles for break and lunch with clear routines for hygiene and safety to be followed by all. It will be a very different experience for us all but I am confident that the school will adapt and flourish despite the challenges. The full detail of the plan will come out in later communications during the holidays.

Bus routes will have been sent today. Further detail and timings will be shared once we receive finalised plans from Confidence. Our routes will run as normal but please note that parents will need ensure that students wear a mask or face covering for every journey.

Finally, a thank you to all parents, our home educators who have supported us these last four months. I am sure you come to the end of term with a sense of relief but hopefully also pride in your achievements, in the resilience, patience, determination and humour it has taken to maintain "home school". Enjoy the end of term feeling!

Do enjoy the time to rest and recharge and I look forward to welcoming our students back in September.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Emma Taplin', with a stylized, cursive script.

Emma Taplin
Principal