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Principal: Ms Emma Taplin

8th January 2021

Dear parents and carers

"There are **decades** where nothing happens; and there are weeks where **decades** happen."

Lenin

These words have never rung truer than this week of dramatic events and changing decisions. It has been a difficult, challenging and worrying week and the new lock down has had an impact on us all, particularly on families and young people. However, we must again, as community, do all we can to play our part.

I am proud of how we have adapted to this new challenge as a school community, how well the Avanti Fields team have planned an delivered remote lesson whilst still supporting those students still in school, the supportive messages from parents and the mature and resilient response from all our young people to this new term.

Student engagement to tutor time, lessons and tutorials has been excellent and has really reflected the fantastic and positive attitude of Avanti Fields students to their learning and the positive relationship they enjoy with their teachers.

School is a very quiet place again and does not feel normal or right, but I have truly enjoyed walking around the rooms where staff are working in school and seeing and hearing the conversations happening remotely, the questions posed and answered and most of all, the mature, focussed and positive approach our students take to their learning.

Thank you also to parents for your support at home, for everything you have done to boost confidence, create a quiet working space and encourage engagement. We do appreciate the difficulty of juggling all demands and we will continue to guide students on how best to access the work. Advice so far is that students should always listen to the voice over PowerPoint – in this the teacher will have given clear instructions of the content and task. Your child's teacher is working live during the lesson time for questions and messages from students. Please emphasise to your son or daughter that at other times they are working with other classes and cannot always respond immediately.

Finally, we will be beginning the lateral flow testing next week for those students in school and a letter and consent form has gone home today.

If you have any questions or difficulties, please do contact the school. Tutors are the first port of call, and if we can support you please do not hesitate to get in touch. We are here to help.

Stay safe and well. Kind regards

Emma Taplin Principal

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