

11<sup>th</sup> May 2020

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Chief Executive Officer: Andrea Arlidge

Dear Parent/Carer

It was heartening to hear yesterday of the first small steps being taken to ease the lockdown.

Whilst these remain challenging times for all of us, I want to thank you and your children for the positive and flexible approach you have taken to support remote learning. We are continually refining our approach to enable our pupils to make the most of the activities they are engaged in. The introduction of Seesaw in the primary phase and the online assemblies produced by our secondary schools are just two examples of developments that have been very positively received. We welcome feedback from our parents and are very appreciative of the many positive emails sent to our heads and principals.

These are even more uncertain times for those pupils about to transition to the next phase of their education in September. We are working on programmes to ease this process as much as we can. For example, we will be introducing our youngest pupils to their reception class teachers through online storytelling; Year 6 will experience virtual tours and receive a transition box including a range of activities; Year 11 will start bridging units to support personal development alongside preparatory work for A Level and vocational studies. We can't entirely replicate the experience pupils would have had but we will do our best to ensure they feel confident and ready for their next step.

Both as an educator and a parent, I want pupils to return to school as soon as possible. I know my colleagues are missing their pupils, your children, and are desperately keen to return to teaching them in school. However, our first priority remains the safety of everyone in our school communities and we need to consider and plan how to best implement the new arrangements when we have confirmation regarding the details. I will contact you again later this week, once we have had the opportunity to consider how best to move forward.

Thank you for your continued support.

Please stay safe and well.



Andrea Arlidge  
Chief Executive