

17th July 2020

Dear parents and carers

I'm writing to you at the end of what has been a summer term that it would have been impossible for us all to imagine just a short while ago. It's still hard to believe that it was March 20th when we last experienced normal school life.

I want to thank you all for what you have done over the last four months to support your child in their learning and to respond so helpfully to the changing situation for schools. I know that it has not always been easy and that you, like us, have experienced challenges, anxieties and uncertainties about the educational provision for your children. Thank you also to those of you who have contacted the schools with praise for what has been achieved; our staff really appreciate that. Equally, however, I hope we have been able to reassure those of you who have had concerns. Either way, we are grateful for your feedback; it's helpful to ensure that we continue to improve what we do.

All our schools have achieved a great deal over the last four months. It has not been easy as we have all navigated uncharted waters through the Covid-19 situation. The Headteachers and their senior leaders, along with their teams of staff have put children and their health and well-being first in all the decisions they have taken. As a result, I believe our children will be ready to return to school in September with confidence and optimism.

There is much work that will continue over the summer period in readiness for September. In the secondary schools, staff are preparing to support the young people receiving GCSE and A Level results in August and plans are being put in place in all schools to ensure that the curriculum for children and young people will facilitate rapid progress next year. The risk assessments for full return, prepared at school level, will be held in draft form in readiness for further government guidance before being uploaded to websites by the start of the year.

In the meantime, I wish staff, children and families a happy and relaxing holiday, one in which home returns to being home, rather than home school. I do hope that you will all have some time to rest and recuperate. We will really look forward to seeing all children and young people back in school in September.

Best wishes



Sarah Busby
Chief Executive Officer