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**Headteacher**

Andrea Jones

12<sup>th</sup> February 2021

Dear Families,

As we come to the end of this half-term, I am writing to provide families with an update on some of the fantastic opportunities and achievements our learners have had during this period.

I firstly want to thank you, our parents and carers, who have worked alongside us during this challenging time to support your children in accessing and engaging in the range of remote learning opportunities. We fully appreciate the demands this places on families, who may have several children and family members all working at home, and the exceptionally high levels of engagement with the full timetable of live lessons and tutor time is a reflection of all your ongoing support and we are grateful to you for continuing to work in partnership with us. We are delighted with the fantastic levels of engagement and with the quality of work our learners are submitting to their teachers.

We are so pleased that we have been able to successfully support so many of our learners with access to technology in order to promote increased engagement with learning. We have successfully secured a number devices from both the Department for Education and the Greater Manchester Technology Fund, and we still have some of these available for learners who require them, so please do let us know if this is something we can help with.

The school continues to issue vouchers to families who are eligible for free school meals via the national voucher scheme facilitated by EdenRed. All vouchers have now been issued for this half term. Vouchers will continue to be issued on a fortnightly basis after the half term holidays. As was the case at Christmas, Tameside have provided the school with vouchers for eligible families to support them over the half term holiday. Eligible families should have received a £15 voucher for Tesco today for each child who is entitled to Free School Meals. If you have any questions about Free School Meal vouchers then please do not hesitate to contact Mrs Handforth in the main school office.

This week we introduced our 'Wellbeing Bus' into the wider community, and we were delighted to see so many of our learners making the most of the opportunity to stock up on resources for their remote learning, as well as a few extra treats. Thank you for all of your positive feedback regarding this – we are currently planning for this to continue after the half-term, and we'll keep you updated regarding the dates nearer the time.

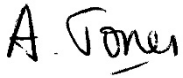
We do not currently have any further information regarding the future reopening of schools, so when we return on Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> February after the half-term break, the remote learning timetable will continue in the same way as currently. Once we have any further details we will of course share these with you. School will continue to remain open for the children of critical workers and those children who have an allocated social worker. If you feel you are eligible for this provision, and you require the place, please contact Dr Potter in school to discuss this further.

I know from the many messages of support and appreciation that we have received from you that you will all join me in thanking our amazing team of dedicated staff, who have worked tirelessly to continue to provide our learners with high quality learning experiences in such a challenging context, as well as all of the ongoing support for welfare and personal development. Please remember that there are always members of our safeguarding team and the senior leadership team available in school every day if you feel that your child is struggling and would benefit from any additional support. In addition to this, there is a range of information on our website for how to access wider support if needed.

Please follow our Twitter account to keep up to date with any news stories and latest developments using the following address: @LHS HighSchool

Thank you for your continuing support and I wish you and your families a restful half-term break.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "A. Jones". The signature is written in a cursive style with a horizontal line under the name.

Andrea Jones  
**Headteacher**