



SEATON VALLEY FEDERATION OF SCHOOLS

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Dear parents, carers and pupils,

I hope that you are all well and that your Easter Holiday was as good as possible in these very strange times?

I am writing to let you know what has been happening over the holidays and what the initial plans are for the new term.

First of all, may I thank those staff who gave up time over the holidays, including the bank holidays, to be in school so that the school could be open for the children of the key workers.

Secondly, we have I believe finally got the free school meals situation sorted out. This has not been easy due to the issues with the government system but it seems to be sorted now. If you are having any issues please do let us know.

For those pupils in years 11 and 13, we have had information on how your grades are going to be decided and you will receive a separate letter early next week outlining what the government's plans are and what we are doing as a result of this.

As the lockdown is going to go on for at least another 3 weeks, staff will be setting up new work from Monday. I must stress it is vital that pupils engage with this new learning. If you are struggling with this please do let us know.

We continue to keep in contact with the parents and pupils who we have been asked to do so. Can I ask that if the staff contact you, that you do respond just so we know that everything is ok? Likewise, if you have any issues please contact us and staff are more than willing to have a chat with a pupil over the phone if that will help.

With the lockdown continuing for at least another 3 weeks and there being no clear indication of when the schools will return, the senior leadership are looking at the calendar of events for all 3 schools to see what events will go ahead and which ones will sadly be cancelled for this year. We will inform you as soon as any decisions have been made.

I know the parents of children in year 8 and those parents who have children in year 4 will be wondering what is happening about transition. At the moment we have not made any decisions and a lot will depend on when we return to school but again, we will let you know as soon as we can.

On the issue of returning to school there are a lot of people making lots of comments about this but the simple fact is no one knows when this will happen and how it will happen especially if there is a desire to have social distancing in place. As anyone who has been in the 3 schools will know, keeping young people 2 metres apart in classrooms and at free time will not be possible! What I will say is that I will only reopen the schools if I feel it

is safe to do so and I will not be rushed into this. The health and safety of the young people and my staff are the most important things to me when I make any decision.

The lockdown will be having an effect on all of us so if you feel the need to discuss any issues about your children, please contact us. Also, if you know someone who is struggling and could do with some help with food, please do let me know as I can contact a food bank and arrange some support. I must stress that all this would be in the strictest confidence.

We will continue to send out any messages to parents at the end of every school day and then repeat the message the next morning just so that you know when messages are coming out.

Thank you to everyone who has sent in positive messages; they are really great to receive and rest assured we will continue to do all we can to make these strange times as easy as they can be when it comes to school.

Finally, please take care of yourselves and be safe and I look forward to seeing you all again soon.

In the words of a man who has really inspired me this week Captain Tom: "Please remember that tomorrow is a good day and we shall all get through it in the end."

All the very best.



John Barnes
Executive Headteacher