



SEATON VALLEY FEDERATION OF SCHOOLS

Elsdon Avenue, Seaton Delaval, Northumberland NE25 0BP

Tel: 0191 2371505

Fax: 0191 2376891

Email: reception@svf.org.uk

www.svf.org.uk

Chair of Governors: Susan Dungworth

Executive Headteacher: John Barnes

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Good afternoon

So, we have now made it to the end of week 7 in lockdown and I know that many of us are beginning to feel the strain. From my perspective can I thank you for your continued support of the 3 schools and that you are encouraging and supporting your children with their online learning.

I realise that things are getting harder as staff are trying to introduce new learning for our students and that is not easy when you are at home but we have made that decision because as a federation we knew we had to try and keep on developing our young people. If your son or daughter is struggling with this new learning please do let us know and we will try and help them.

You may have seen in the press or on social media recently a lot of stuff about the quality of the work schools are providing and if real time online lessons should be happening. Can I be very clear there will be no real time online video lessons happening in the federation. That is a decision we took early on and I remain comfortable with that. As for the work that the staff are supplying, they are trying very hard to ensure that this is of a high standard and support the students as best they can. A lot of my own staff are having to do the same juggling as many of you with working from home and home-schooling/looking after their own children. As it stands, I think everyone is doing as well as they can.

On Sunday we will hear the government's plans for the next stage in this battle with COVID-19. Whatever they say I must be clear with you and say that there will be no quick return to "normal" schooling. If and when students return to school, we have huge logistical hurdles to overcome and I am sure you will understand that especially if you have been into any of the schools recently! However, as I always say I will keep you informed of what our plans are. This term would also see our transition events for those young people joining either the middle schools or going to the high school. At this moment we are planning what those transition events are going to be like. It is safe to say that they will be very different this year!

All that however is for the future. Tomorrow we celebrate 75 years since the Second World War in Europe ended and there will be events to mark that all over the country social distancing permitted! I would never ever dream of saying what we are going through can equate to the events 75 years ago. However what I would do is say that the spirit you show today is based on the spirit shown by our relatives back then and I urge you all to keep positive and take inspiration from whoever you need to in order to get through this situation.

If you get the chance tomorrow, take some time to remember the events of 75 years ago and what that generation did for us and say thank you however you can.

I hope you have a wonderful weekend and as always please take care and stay safe.

All the very best.



John Barnes
Executive Headteacher