



SEATON VALLEY FEDERATION OF SCHOOLS

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12 June 2020

Dear all

I cannot believe that it is Friday again and I am writing to you with another weekly update. As usual with this lockdown so much seems to be the same as before and yet so much has changed.

Since I wrote to you on Wednesday regarding the decision not to open the middle schools to year 5 was taken by the government and that we were looking to try and do something for those pupils who will not be in school until September we have been putting plans together. However, I have learnt that at the moment there are issues from both central and local government that mean the planned wider opening is not yet allowed to happen. Obviously, this is not what we want to hear and we are pushing very hard on this supported by the governors. We feel it is vital that every young person in the federation gets some time in school before the end of this academic year. I will update you as soon as I hear anything.

On a more positive front our year 6 pupils seem to be settling in well since they returned to school and the plans are in place for the return of our year 10 and 12 pupils. We are certainly looking forward to seeing them back even if it's not in a normal way!

I would like to say to the pupils in year 10 and 12 and their parents and carers I know you will be very worried about your exams next year and what being out of school this long means for you. All I can say is that all schools are pushing very hard that next year's GCSE and A level exams/results are based on a system where teacher prediction plays a big part in the way that it did this year. I doubt that there will be any announcement made about this soon but please rest assured that we are doing our very best to make the system different for you. What I would say is that if the system does change and staff are allowed to make predictions then the work that you do now at home may well be some of the work that is used to help staff make those predictions. So, I strongly suggest you do your very best with this work.

Attached to this letter is an announcement from the local authority that the term dates for the academic year 2021-2022 have changed please make a note of this as it means there is a different start date in September 2021 from the one that has already been announced. It is not a change for this September!

As I have said before the planning for next year is taking place but has been put on hold for the moment as we wait to hear if the social distancing rules move from there being a 2m space to a 1m space when that has been decided I will start the planning again and share with you the plans as soon as possible.

It seems that once what was strange and abnormal is now becoming normal and acceptable however I just keep reminding everyone that this is not normal and what you are all doing is fantastic. We all have days when it just does not seem to be right and there is nothing wrong with that. What I would ask is that if your child is struggling either with their work or generally in how they feel please let us know and someone can give them a call just to have a chat. In the next few weeks, we will be calling or emailing everyone again just to see how things are going but as always please contact before then if you have any issues.



I hope that you all have a good weekend and as always thank you for your continued support and efforts and thank you to all my staff for all that they are doing.

Take care and stay safe.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J Barnes', with a stylized flourish at the end.

John Barnes
Executive Headteacher