



SEATON VALLEY FEDERATION OF SCHOOLS

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Good afternoon

I hope you are all well and enjoying the wonderful weather?

As I said in my letter last week, I expected that the government would make announcements after I had written my letter and that is what they did! However, it is still not clear what their plans for September are and like you I am wanting to hear so that we can make our plans.

However, some things have happened and allowed us to make plans for certain things. Firstly, we now know what is happening with regard to free school meals and Mr Watson will write to all parents of free school meals pupils to let them know what will happen.

Secondly, we are able to have pupils from years 5,7,8 and 9 in for meetings to see how things are going. I urge you to make use of this opportunity and come in and meet with staff just to see how your son/daughter is doing. We also have some transition events planned as well and those details have been shared with parents in year 8. I am also pleased that we are able to get a yearbook for the year 8s sorted as well. We have also put in place a provisional date for the rearranged year 11 prom which will hopefully happen in October.

Thirdly this week saw the year 10s and 12s come back into school and that process has gone very well thank you to everyone who made that happen.

We have nearly finished the plans for the results day in August for years 11 and 13 and hope to share details with you about that next week. If your child was thinking of leaving us at the end of year 11 but has now changed their mind can you please contact Mr Ironside and let him know.

We also found out that the school like all schools will receive money which will help us assist pupils to catch up if they have fallen behind. Presently we are not sure how and when this money will come to us.

We also found out this week that there is no expectation for schools to offer any provision for the children of key workers or those pupils who are considered vulnerable in the summer holidays. Therefore, the decision has been taken that none of the Federation schools will be open to pupils in the 6 week summer holidays. It will of course be open for results days but we will not be providing any education activities. I am not sure what activities the local authority plan to run and if I hear anything, I will let you know.

We have taken this decision because the schools have been open every day apart from weekends since lockdown started and staff have also provided a huge amount of online learning. As a result of this all staff need a break and they have done a fantastic job. Furthermore, the majority of the pupils and yourselves have done a fantastic job engaging with the online learning and you too deserve a break!

With regards to September as soon as the plan is sorted, I will inform you of it. My greatest desire is that we are as close to normal as possible in September but that it is done in a really safe way.

I hope that you will join me in thanking all of the staff in the Federation for all that they have done so far. I feel that we are going to be affected by this virus for quite some time but when you look at what all of us have achieved in the last 14 weeks it really is quite amazing.

So, I hope you all have a good weekend and hopefully next week I will be in a position to share with you what will be happening in September.

As always best wishes take care and be safe.

Best wishes.



John Barnes
Executive Headteacher