



SEATON VALLEY FEDERATION OF SCHOOLS

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3 July 2020

Dear parents and carers

Well once again it has been an interesting week in education and yet again a week of questions and trying to work out what is going to happen for the young people in our federation. Finally, the government released yesterday their plan/guidance for the return of ALL pupils to school in September. If you have not seen their advice you can access the parent's guide here.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/what-parents-and-carers-need-to-know-about-early-years-providers-schools-and-colleges-during-the-coronavirus-covid-19-outbreak>

I would recommend that you look at this when you have the time.

We received the information at the same time that you did but we have been working on a plan for some time. But there were things in the guidance that are new to us and we will have to respond to those.

Whilst there is a lot of information in the guidance and we have to spend some time now on getting the plans ready there are a few things that I can tell you will be happening 100% in September in our 3 schools.

1. All pupils will be welcomed back to school.
2. All pupils will be following their normal curriculum, lessons and with their timetabled staff.
3. All pupils will have normal work and homework set for them.
4. All pupils will be supported by staff to settle back into school.
5. The schools will follow all the health and safety guidance issued by the government.

There are some things that will be different from the normal in September.

1. There will be staggered start and end of school times.
2. Pupils will be in year group bubbles based in one area of the school and they will stay in that area and staff will travel to the lessons.
3. Some lessons will not happen in the normal rooms however they will happen.
4. Year groups will be kept apart from each other.

There are some areas that parents will have big concerns on and whilst I am happy that we can solve the issues in school the biggest issue for many parents will be around transport and the issue of buses. At the moment we are not sure what is happening in that area as this is something organised by the local authority. As soon as I hear anything from them, I will let you know.

I realise that many of you will have concerns questions and ideas about what is going to happen. Therefore, I would welcome you to share any views or thoughts you may have via email to my PA Angela Small (angela.small@svf.org.uk) who will then pass them onto me. If you all email at once I may have to take some time to respond to you! It is my hope that I have a plan to share with staff, governors and parents by the middle

to end of next week. This will include the plan for the first week back and then the rest of the half term. Someone asked me how long I thought this would last. My heart says hopefully until Christmas but my head says it may well be for the whole academic year!

My last points on the September opening is that the most important thing in all of this is that your children and the staff of the federation are safe and sound and we will do all we can to make sure that this happens. Secondly our federation will continue to offer your children the consistency, care and safety that we know they want and need.

Also, this week there was clarification about the exams and the results for years 11 and 13. Parents and students in these years will be getting a separate letter today outlining what is happening with regards to results days and 6th form enrolment.

With regards to the Ardeche we have sent news out regarding the trip and all parents of free school meals pupils should have had information about what is happening for them. I am pleased to say that more of our pupils have been able to come into school and see their teachers for a short time and that this process will continue for the rest of the term.

We are also in the process of contacting parents about the proposal to offer the opportunity to buy a chrome book and pay for it over a number of years thus giving the pupils the opportunity to have their own chrome book that they can use in school and at home. Further details will be shared before the end of term. I have to say that this is not compulsory but as a federation we want to offer you the opportunity to buy a chrome book.

Once again thank you for all your kind supportive messages. They mean a lot to us.

Finally, as we get closer to the end of term, I feel it is only right to share that one of our longest serving members of staff is leaving us at the end of the year. Mrs Deborah Scott who has taught at Seaton Sluice Middle School for quite some time now has made the decision to retire. This is not quite how we expected her last term to be! However, I wanted to take this opportunity to inform you that she was leaving as many of you may have been taught by her but also to say a massive thank you for all she has done in her time at Seaton Sluice Middle School.

So here we are at the end of another week where so much seems to be different yet so much is still the same. What we all need to remember is that these changes are temporary. They are challenging but they are temporary. What will never change is the absolute commitment all of us involved in the federation have for the young people who attend our schools.

I hope you all have a great weekend for those of you who are getting a haircut. I hope you have a great time. I am led to believe that this is a very important thing! As always please take care and stay safe and I will be in contact as soon as I can about the plan for September.

Yours sincerely



John Barnes
Executive Headteacher