



SEATON VALLEY FEDERATION OF SCHOOLS

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Chair of Governors: Susan Dungworth

Executive Headteacher: John Barnes

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Good afternoon

So here we are at the end of the academic year 2019-2020 and I think it is safe to say it will be a year that will live in our memories for a very, very long time! I thought this would be an easy letter to write but in fact it has proven quite difficult to write. Not because I don't know what to say. As you all know I always have plenty to say! No, it's been difficult to write as I wanted to make a real impression on all of us about what we have achieved over the last 20 plus weeks and I was not sure how best to do this.

I could list all the things the school, the pupils and you have done. I could list all the work that has been set, completed and marked. I could list how we got the Free School Meals fiasco sorted out. I could mention all the phone calls, emails and other communications that have happened to make sure things have worked and people have been ok. I could mention all the positive comments we have received from you. I could say how wonderful the pupils have been when they have come into school. I could mention all the great ways staff and pupils have acted to make other people's lives better. I could mention all of the letters that I have sent home but I feel that these have been more of a hindrance than a positive thing! I could reflect on the way that each and every one of us has stepped up to the plate and just made things happen and work.

But in all honesty, we know that this has happened and we know how great our federation and all those associated with it from the young people, to the staff to the leaders to you have been. I have heard that what we would expect to be normal practice such as all the things listed above have not happened in other schools. This reflects just how good our federation of schools is because all of us have done the things that we needed to so that this lockdown has worked. As a result of that all of us should be very proud of what we and our federation has achieved and so I say thank you for that!

Yet the best thing of all is that we haven't just done this because of the lockdown. The Seaton Valley Federation and all of us associated with it do this type of work, this level of effort and this level of support every year and that is what makes us special.

The holidays are finally here and are well deserved by all of us. I hope all of you have a great summer. We will write to you in August with the full details about the plans for September and the return of all of our young people which can only be a good thing. I have no doubt that there will be issues when we return but I also have no doubt that we will overcome these and continue to do what we in the Seaton Valley Federation do best. Support our young people to achieve their best, be happy and also to be safe.

I urge you please to read any communications when they come out because September will be different from previous years but I also urge you to have a rest and a break. Finally, the one good thing for you and my staff is that from September I do not plan to write home to you every week. I don't think any of us deserves that in the new year!

So, for the last time this year many thanks to all of the staff for all they have done this year. Many thanks to the pupils for all their efforts and many thanks to all of you for your support.

Take care, stay safe and see you all in September.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "John Barnes". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'J' and 'B'.

John Barnes
Executive Headteacher