



SEATON VALLEY FEDERATION OF SCHOOLS

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28 August 2020

Dear parents and carers.

I hope this letter finds you all well and that you have had as good a summer holiday as possible given all that has been going on? I think it's fair to say that this summer holiday has been as strange and unusual as there has ever been!

Firstly may I say a massive congratulations and well done to the pupils and their families who got exam results this year. The way you handled things was fantastic. I would also like to say a massive thank you to all the staff who had to deal with all the confusion in those two weeks.

Can I welcome the parents and pupils who are joining us in year 5 and any other years as well. Welcome to our federation! I hope that your children have a fantastic time in our federation and go on and achieve all that they want to.

We are now getting very close to the return of the young people to school and I know that you will have mixed feelings about this. Relief that they are going back to some form of normality and being with their friends but also concerned as to what it will be like in school. We are really keen to have the youngsters back but we are also aware that there are going to be concerns about safety and simply coming back.

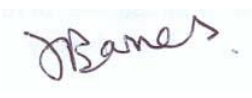
I just wanted you to be aware that we have followed all the instructions given to us about safe opening. We are doing things differently to ensure that the schools are as safe as they can be. The three Heads of School have written to the parents of the pupils in the schools informing them of what is expected and routines and practices etc. Please can you make sure that you and your children are aware of them before they return to school.

I am aware that some people may be having issues with obtaining all their uniforms. If you are struggling we have decided that a pupil can come in with normal uniform with the exception of a school jumper as all the other articles of clothing can be got from other shops. If you do not have a tie we can supply one of those. Obviously if you have all the uniform please ensure your child wears it.

The next few days, weeks even months are going to be different, difficult and challenging for all of us. We will do all we can to make sure that things go as smoothly as they can. We will support the young people and help them to adapt. However we need them to help us by following the plans and routines set out. I ask that you support us by reinforcing what we are trying to do and letting us know if there are any issues. We have planned things as well as we can but the last few months have shown that having plans is one thing, what happens in actuality is another thing altogether! If you can continue to support us in the way that you did during lockdown; that would be great. One way you could do this is by ensuring you attend the parents meetings on Wednesday. These are very important for us to meet with you and your child to see how things are, explain what the new systems are and to answer any of your questions. I encourage you to sign up for these.

I hope that you all have a good bank holiday weekend and look forward to seeing everyone next week. I have absolutely no doubt that in spite of all the issues and difficulties we are going to face this year this federation, the three schools and the students who attend it are going to have yet another fantastic inspiring year.

Best wishes.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "John Barnes". The signature is written in a cursive style with a small flourish at the end.

John Barnes
Executive Headteacher