



SEATON VALLEY FEDERATION OF SCHOOLS

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Chair of Governors: Susan Dungworth

Executive Headteacher: John Barnes

8 January 2021

Good afternoon.

I hope this letter finds you well considering everything that has happened this week. I wonder how the home schooling is going with it snowing outside?

First of all can I thank all of you for once again supporting the federation schools as we respond to the government's decision to move into lockdown. It's never easy for any of us when the decision is made and made so late but once again we have all worked together to get something in place so thank you for your help with that.

As the week has gone on there have been announcements made about education and I just wanted to summarise these for you from our point of view. If you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact us and we will try and clarify the issue.

Exams. There will be no SATs exams for year 6 this year. As for the BTEC exams that are happening this month, we have taken the decision to go ahead with these but parents and pupils have the option to not attend if that is what they wish and the pupils will be entered for these exams later. With regard to GCSE and A level exams, the government have announced that these will not go ahead as planned and are working on what the solution will be. I must make it clear to year 11 and 13 pupils that there will be something in place and they need to continue working this lockdown period. As I write this letter there is no induction what the alternative is going to be.

Free School Meals. At the moment there is no clarity on how these are going to be issued. The government has promised to fund them but has not yet made it clear if there will be a voucher system. As soon as we know we will contact you. With regards to meals being provided in school for those pupils in school over the weekend we will be asking parents if they want us to provide meals. The parents that this applies to will be contacted directly.

Online learning. The government has said that schools must provide online learning for pupils which we have been doing since March. They have stipulated the amount of time that must be provided daily and the schools will provide that amount of work. However, I am aware that for some families it is not possible for you to do all that amount of learning for any number of reasons. What I would ask is that you do as much as you can and that if you are having issues please contact your child's school to let us know what the issue is and we will look to see how we can help.

ICT devices. I am aware that there have been a number of announcements by politicians both nationally and locally about the provision of ICT resources. I need to be clear that when we have asked for more devices we have been told that we have had our full allocation that we are entitled to. We will keep applying and hopefully we will receive some more? If you have an ICT resource issue please contact your child's school and we will see how we can help support you.

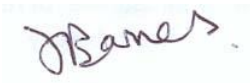
Testing, Vaccination and end of lockdown. At the moment we are setting up the testing system and I will share more information on that when we have it. With regards to vaccination it seems that school staff and pupils are not high on the list of people to receive the vaccinations I hope that this changes. As to when the lockdown will end so far the only date we have been given is that the lockdown will be at least until February half term however, this might be extended we simply don't know.

I am certain that the efforts from all of us will ensure that the young people in our Federation will do as well as they can given the circumstances of being in lockdown again. If you feel that your child is struggling with being in lockdown please let us know and we will see how we can help you.

As I did in the first lockdown I will write to you every Friday just to keep you updated with any news or information. Once again thank you for your support over the course of this week.

I hope that you are well and that you stay safe.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "John Barnes". The signature is written in a cursive style and is positioned above the printed name.

John Barnes
Executive Headteacher