



SEATON VALLEY FEDERATION OF SCHOOLS

Elsdon Avenue, Seaton Delaval, Northumberland NE25 0BP

Tel: 0191 2371505 Fax: 0191 2376891

Email: reception@svf.org.uk

www.svf.org.uk

Chair of Governors: Susan Dungworth

Executive Headteacher: John Barnes

5 March 2021

Good afternoon

I hope everyone is well and looking forward to the return of all pupils on Monday? I certainly know that staff in all 3 schools are really excited about the young people coming back in. I think secretly and I know they would never say this most of the young people are keen to get back too.

The first tests have gone well and thank you to all of you who agreed for your children to be tested. The second and third tests will happen next week. The behaviour of the young people has been super. In all 3 schools over 90% of young people in year7 upwards have been tested that is excellent.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the staff involved in the whole testing process without their help the testing would have been a lot more difficult.

I know that the Heads of School have written to the parents of their pupils and explained what is going to happen on Monday and what will be in place until the Easter holidays. That is 3 weeks that these arrangements will be in place. The government will then review everything and make a decision as to what happens next.

Most of the arrangements that are in place are the same as we had in place before Christmas however, there are 2 things I need to remind you and the young people of. The first of these is ventilation. Due to the nature of the virus we have been advised that windows in all rooms must be kept open to encourage air circulation. The heating will of course be on and if it is very cold pupils will be allowed to wear coats at the discretion of the teacher. So if your child comes home and says it was cold in the lessons and windows were open that is why. The second issue will be around the wearing of face coverings inside. We are strongly recommended by the DFE and public health England that everyone wears a face covering inside if they can not maintain the social distancing guidelines. I know, understand and appreciate just how hard this is going to be. However, I ask that parents and pupils support us in this. If you have an issue with your child wearing a face covering please make sure you have spoken to your head of school. If someone is unable to wear a face covering we will where possible ensure that they maintain the social distancing as has been recommended. I hope that everyone will support us on this and we make every effort to ensure that Covid 19 does not get into our schools.

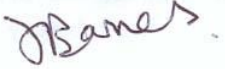
For those parents and young people in years 11 and 13 we hope to have some information out to you regarding the replacement for exams before we break up for Easter. However, I can not stress highly enough how important it is that pupils in years 11 and 13 engage in all the work that they are set as this will play a big part in whatever system is put in place.

We are now coming to the end of this second lockdown and returning to "bubble schooling". None of the last calendar year has been normal but all of us have done exceptionally well in how we have responded to everything that has been thrown at us. We are about to enter the next stage of Covid 19 education. If your child is suffering at all from lockdown or the return to school or is just generally struggling please do let us know and we will do all we can to support them. I am certain that we will do as well in this phase as we have done in every other phase. I would like to say a massive thank you to the young people for all they have done. A massive thank you to you as parents for all you have done and the support you have shown us and finally a massive thank you to all of my staff who have been absolutely amazing. We are very lucky that they work for our federation.

I hope that everyone has a great weekend and I look forward to seeing everyone back in school next week.

As always please take care and be 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