



SEATON VALLEY FEDERATION OF SCHOOLS

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Good afternoon

Once again this has been a challenging week in the Federation with regard to Covid. We have sadly had to send pupils home to self isolate. Can I take this opportunity to thank everyone for their support when we have had to do this.

In the Federation we will always try to avoid sending a whole year group home if we can. My view is that it is better to have some pupils in rather than have everyone at home. I do understand the challenges that sending home close contacts brings to you. I have a number of staff who are at home due to child care issues rather than being a positive case themselves.

This week also saw the announcement from the DFE as to what will be in place at the start of next year. The link to the DFE guidance is here.

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/999689/Schools_guidance_Step_4_update_FINAL.pdf

A simple summary is that all restrictions are now gone. However, in the Federation we will be keeping in place extra hygiene actions such as hand washing and sanitising points throughout the schools and sanitising every classroom at the end of every lesson. We also have in place plans that we can bring into action should there be a need to increase covid security.

The biggest issue for us is the announcement that all children in years 7 upwards will need to do 2 tests at school before they come back to school. We were not expecting this and so we are working out what that will look like for each school. I will have to ask you to check emails, schools coms and the website in the last 2 weeks of August for any updates we put out. I can not tell you what the plan is now because we have not had all the details from the DFE to allow us to finalise the plan.

I think what we have all learnt from the last 18 months is that things can change at the last moment so we need to be as flexible as possible.

Each head of school will write to the parents of the pupils in their school separately setting out what the start of next year is going to be like. My aim is to get the pupils into school as quickly as we can.

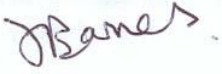
The government has asked that pupils continue to test themselves over the course of the holidays.

As we enter the last week of the year it seems so strange not to be doing all the events that we normally would be. This is a real sadness but at this moment in time there is nothing we can do about it.

It is my hope that next year we will be able to have more of the normal activities that make our 3 schools such special places to attend.

I hope everyone has a good weekend and if you are watching the football on Sunday that the game is what you want. Please as always take care and stay safe.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "JBarnes". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long tail on the final letter.

John Barnes
Executive Headteacher