



# SEATON VALLEY FEDERATION OF SCHOOLS

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**Chair of Governors:** Susan Dungworth

**Executive Headteacher:** John Barnes

16 December 2021

Dear parents and carers

I hope you are well and that the run up to the holidays is going as well and smoothly as it can for you? I am struggling to believe that we are at the end of the first term of this academic year. It seems to have gone so fast but also it seems to have been a long term as well!

Once again, we have had a term that is not like a normal term. Thankfully, for most of the time we have been able to provide an education that is close to what we would normally do. But none of us can escape the fact that Covid still has an enormous impact on our lives. As I write this letter, I am coming to the end of self-isolation having caught the virus.

The great thing is that in spite of all the issues that Covid has brought into our schools we have still continued to provide the best education and experiences that we can for our young people. I would love to say that things are going to return to normal very soon, but I can't say that especially with the concerns about omicron. As it stands, we have no idea or information about what is going to happen in the new year. All I will say is that should anything be changed by the DFE then I will let you know as soon as I can.

What I will say is that we are offering an onsite testing opportunity for years 7 to 13 on the 4th January and you will have received a letter about that. We also continue to wear masks in communal areas and ask pupils to test twice a week at home. Should your child or anyone in the family catch Covid please follow the national guidelines as to what to do.

However, enough of that, I feel we should be celebrating some outstanding success from this term. First of all, I must once again mention the WMS Ofsted report. I am so pleased that WMS is now a good school in Ofsted's eyes and in fact outstanding for its behaviour and attitudes. So many congratulations to Mr Souter and his team. It is my great pleasure to say that all 3 schools in the SVF are once again good schools.

We have had some tremendous activities and things going on in all 3 of our schools ranging from residential for the year 5s to theatre trips, to English Literature trips to Beamish, 6th form and Year 11 trips to the local universities and also personal development opportunities at all 3 schools. Yet just as importantly, really good quality teaching and learning going on every day in all 3 of our schools. For all of this to happen I need quality staff and once again I want to record my thanks to all of my exceptional staff who do so much for the pupils of the SVF.

At the end of every term, we have some staff who leave the federation for pastures new and I want to thank and say goodbye to Mrs Sharon Matthews, Mrs Rachael Scott and Mrs Michelle Jones who are leaving us. Thank you for all you have done and I wish you all the best in the future.

All that remains for me is to wish you all a very happy and enjoyable Christmas and wish you all the very best for 2022. I hope that the new year is better than this one! Once again thank you for all of your support over the course of the last term.

Please take care and stay safe and have the best holiday that you possibly can.

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'.

John Barnes  
Executive Headteacher