



# SEATON VALLEY FEDERATION OF SCHOOLS

Elsdon Avenue, Seaton Delaval, Northumberland NE25 0BP

Tel: 0191 2371505 Fax: 0191 2376891

Email: [reception@svf.org.uk](mailto:reception@svf.org.uk)

[www.svf.org.uk](http://www.svf.org.uk)

**Chair of Governors:** Susan Dungworth

**Executive Headteacher:** John Barnes

7 April 2022

Dear Parent and Carer

I hope you are all well and are looking forward to the upcoming Easter Holiday. It does not seem possible that we are already at Easter. The time since Christmas seems to have flown by. However, saying that yet again this term has been very hard for all of us who are associated with the Seaton Valley Federation. Covid has continued to be a big influence on our lives with high absence rates of both staff and pupils. But in spite of what we have had to go through we have been able to keep all 3 schools open everyday. It hasn't been easy but we achieved it. I would like to thank everyone who has helped make this happen. Believe me when I say that we all have earned and deserve the holiday!

Even though we have had a difficult term we have seen fantastic things going on in the Federation schools. On a daily basis the quality of teaching and learning has been outstanding. I would welcome anyone who wants to come and visit our schools and see what we do on a daily basis. As I will never grow tired of saying we are blessed with the staff who we have working for the federation. Alongside that the vast majority of our young people have continued to be a joy and a pleasure to teach and have in school. I wish them all a good holiday.

For the year 13 and year 11 this holiday will mean that they also have to do some revision. The exams will be going ahead. I realise that for both year groups these will be the first exams they have done since their SATs and there may be some anxiety around this. All I will say is that a structured revision programme will help you be as best prepared as you can be. Remember staff are available to help you but you will need to put the effort into.

This term we have also seen Shakespeare workshops, celebration of World Book Day, a KS3 visit to London, Bikeability, visits to the Theatre to see School of Rock, to the Great North Museum, Beamish Museum and Seaton Delaval Hall, vegan cookery workshops, our cross curricular project on Venice, preparations for High School Musical and many other opportunities in school.

In the Sixth Form, we have now got our fantastic careers assemblies back on track with visits from numerous employers and apprenticeship providers. The highlights have been ex students returning to talk about their fantastic careers. Ed Moulding came to promote the amazing apprenticeship program at Accenture, and Morgan Butler inspired a number of students with his talk about working in the Merchant Navy transporting radioactive cargo all around the world! We hope to have many more students entering these industries when they leave the Sixth Form!

All this shows that even though Covid has been a big factor in our lives we have continued to give the best education that we can to our young people.

People have been asking what our expectations are now that the government has moved to the living with Covid system. We only got the new directives late this week and so we will look at what they mean for us and then let everyone know after the holidays.

As seems to be the case every term we now have people who are leaving us for either new jobs or new lifestyle opportunities. This term Vicky Johnson, one of our librarians is leaving for a new job in Amble and Jill Brannigan a longstanding Learning Support Assistant at Seaton Sluice Middle School is retiring. I would like to thank them both for all they have done for the SVF and wish them all the best for the future.

Probably the saddest yet most proud I have been this year was when we said goodbye to Ms Colette Da Prato. Colette died after a short battle with cancer and her death has had a profound effect and impact on all of us. She is sorely missed by everyone who knew her. However, we were able to give her a tremendous send off when her funeral cortege drove along Elsdon Avenue and all of Astley High School were able to be out on the road and applaud her and show just what she meant to everyone. It was a remarkable thing to see and our young people were an amazing credit to themselves. Colette's family were, in their words, "blown away by what they saw".

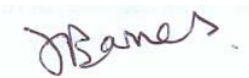
We are also pleased to confirm that Mrs Sam Fletcher, Mr Martin Light and Mrs Rebecca Wright have been appointed to the positions of Pastoral Support Workers at Astley and will start their new roles in September (or perhaps even earlier). I am sure that they will all be fantastic additions to our Pastoral support for all students.

So once again our federation of 3 schools have weathered a difficult term. We continue to do the very best we can. I hope that everyone is able to have a good holiday rest and recharge before we do it all over again in the summer term.

Once again my heartfelt thanks to all of you who support us in what we do, to the vast majority of our young people who always do the best they can and to my fantastic staff who go well beyond what is expected to provide the best education that we can.

I wish you all a happy Easter, may it be warm and most importantly safe and I look forward to seeing you in the summer term.

Yours sincerely



John Barnes  
Executive Headteacher