

12 February 2021

Dear Parent/Carer

As the current term comes to a close I wanted to write to you to state once again how incredibly proud I am of our school community.

These past 6 weeks have been a very difficult and testing time for everyone. However, the vast majority of pupils have been accessing their lessons from home regularly, working fantastically well and it has been a joy to hear about all their wonderful efforts in virtual assemblies. The pupils in school have also been working diligently and have received much praise from the staff supervising their work.

I would like to issue a heart-felt *"thank you"* to our parents and carers who have also been wonderful. I know that home schooling can be a challenge, especially if you are working from home yourselves. Your efforts are valued and what you are doing will most definitely have a positive impact on your child's learning in the long-term.

Despite the demands on your time, many of you have emailed me about the work that the teachers are doing. Our teaching staff have been working tirelessly to provide the best learning experiences they possibly can under difficult circumstances. Your support and appreciative emails are a much-needed boost in these challenging times. Many thanks for your on-going patience, co-operation and kind words.

I would like to give a special mention to our School Business Manager, Mrs Chapman and the team who have been operating our Covid testing facility over the last 5 weeks; their professionalism and efficiency has been incredible. Likewise, our fantastic support staff who provide a truly outstanding service to our school.

Our Network Manager, Mr Roby and his IT team have worked on significant upgrades to the IT infrastructure to ensure that virtual learning can take place and recovered the network after a major power failure yesterday so that our Year 7 Parents' Evening could go ahead. I described the efforts of the whole school community as 'magnificent' in a recent Governors' meeting and this is no exaggeration.

In my latest blog post I quoted Sir Captain Tom Moore who inspires me to look to the rest of the year with renewed hope and optimism ... *"We will get through it in the end but it might take time, but at the end of the day we shall all be OK again... the sun will shine on you again and the clouds will go away."*

As soon as Government guidance is available, we can form a plan for the weeks ahead, including determining Y11 GCSE grades in the summer. In the meantime, please do not hesitate to contact us if you are struggling with any aspect of your child's education and we will do our very best to help.

Yours faithfully



M J DUMICAN
Headteacher