

To our children and young people

I know that this may have been a very unsettling time for you especially for those children and young people who have had a very sudden end to your time in school, particularly if you have been unable to sit your exams and are possibly anxious about the results that you will get in August. I know that for some there may be some relief but for others, we appreciate that leaving your primary school, high school or college is a big step. Your schools may have made arrangements to say good bye but this won't be possible for everyone so I hope that in the near future you are able to have a celebration and to say goodbye to your friends and your teachers in some way.

I also appreciate that this may be a particularly difficult time for those of you that are moving into a new school, college, post 16 or post 19 provision. Usually by now you would have had some time at your new school/college as part of your transition and welcome arrangements, but for most pupils that has not been possible due to the COVID-19 situation.

We know that schools and colleges have tried really hard to be as creative as possible to be able to show you what it will be like at your new school or for you to meet your new teacher/teachers using social media, or doing virtual meetings, for example, and for some there will be summer activities at your new high school. Every school and college is different and so how they do this to prepare you for your start in September may vary. This is to make sure that when you arrive, all the arrangements are in place that are right for you, other pupils, and the school or college.

Your head teacher, teachers and support staff are all really keen to meet you and to make sure that your new start is as safe, smooth and exciting as it should be and they are ready to offer you the help and support you need when you arrive. Headteachers and College Principals have been working very hard on their risk assessments to ensure that they are following guidance and will be able to keep you as safe as possible. You may not have all of the information you need just yet, such as about transport arrangements, but we are working on this and as soon as they are able, your schools will share this with you.

I want to wish you the very best for a safe and fun summer break. I wish you well for your exam results in August and for a great start to your new school term in September. Remember, whatever the challenges have been and what the outcomes of any exams and assessments are, that you are all unique and special individuals with many exciting adventures to come and much to look forward to in the next chapter of your education journey.

Please take care

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "C. Pealing".

Cath Pealing
Assistant Director - Education