



4<sup>th</sup> February 2021

Dear Parents,

I thought I would take the time to write to you today to express how grateful I am for the way in that you have supported your child's school during this current lockdown. As a father of three children I fully understand the challenges involved with remote learning. Times are tough at the moment and it is hard to believe the journey we have all been on since the pandemic struck last year. Who would have thought that in the space of a year we would find ourselves talking about schools being closed, social distancing, face masks, national lockdowns and remote learning? The world has definitely become much smaller due to the restrictions surrounding us all. With that said, I am full of hope for the future, and I am very much looking forward to the day when we can once again invite the children back into school and work towards some kind of normality. I am also very much looking forward to re-establishing school trips, residential experiences and community based events like sports days, summer/Christmas productions and coffee mornings. These days will return.

I find myself reflecting a lot at the moment on what it must be like for a child growing up during these difficult times and I feel a sense of sadness over what they have seen, heard and experienced in the past twelve months. It also fills me with real determination moving forwards to ensure that we continue to meet the children's needs as they return to school and create plenty of memorable experiences for them.

In the meantime, we have to ensure that everyone stays safe. We are at present continuing to follow government guidance that stipulates the safest place for children is in the home and not in the school setting. At present each of our schools are operating with a skeleton staff and from a safety point of view, it is important that each Head of School does not become overrun with additional requests for places for children who do not meet the critical worker criteria. Until we get further clarification from the government on school opening, we have no choice but to remain as we are and continue to persevere with the challenges we face. With that said, if you are struggling please contact your child's school to discuss how we can support you with any challenges you are facing.



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Mr Ian Thomas – Executive Headteacher

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Last week, I asked our Heads of School to gather your feedback on the remote learning offered by your child's school. Thank you to all of you who engaged with this process. Every child, every family, every school, every context is unique and ensuring that we meet the expectations of everyone is always a challenge. However, we were really pleased with all the positive comments and it has certainly given everyone a spring in their step. Next week the School Improvement Team and I will be conducting virtual individual school reviews focused on remote learning provision so we can consider in more depth any further improvements that could be made. Finally, I want to close by thanking you once again for the way in that you are supporting TEAM Multi-Academy Trust and your child's school. Your continued patience and encouragement is much appreciated by everyone.

Please take care and stay safe,

Best wishes,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ian Thomas'.

Ian Thomas