



22 February 2021

Dear Parent/Guardian

Just a short letter from me today to welcome in the new half term. This morning I visited all of the classrooms we are using for our special provision. It was good to see all of the students engaged and leaning and I know from speaking to colleagues that students working from home have, by and large, got straight back into the swing of home learning.

Tonight, we should have more detail about the return to school from 8 March. Beyond the "headlines", we will need to study the guidance that is published and once we have been able to do that I will write, once again, to outline our planning for reopening, testing of students and any further measures that we need to put in place.

Whatever the precise details are around the reopening of schools, we are committed to supporting each and every one of our students. Contrary to some of the messages in the media, I do not believe that due to the COVID emergency, our students are a "lost generation" whose futures are irretrievably damaged (academic, wellbeing, future career prospects). Characterising students in this way is profoundly unfair to them and is the worst kind of fatalism. Students (supported by you) have shown incredible resilience and adaptability and many, as a by-product of remote learning, have developed their independence and time-management skills. Many have shown our positive DREAM characteristics all the way through the year and I am very proud of them and hopeful for the future. Once we are fully back in school I am convinced we will get the vast majority of students on track very quickly (after all, so many of them have kept their learning resilience all the way through this latest lockdown). That is not to say that there will not be a number of students who will need additional support and for whom lockdown has been particularly difficult. Rest assured we will continue to monitor and offer them appropriate support, utilising additional funding and directing resources as appropriate.

I look forward to sharing with you more details about our plans as soon as possible.

Yours sincerely

Mr A Johnson
Headteacher