



11 January 2021

Dear Parents/Carers,

It seems a long time since the start of term when I wrote to you last, but it is only a week. In that letter I asked for your patience as we set up this term and I must thank you for showing that patience, as it allowed us to adapt to the changes at the start of the week.

So many of you have shared very positive feedback on what the schools are providing on site and online. You have written to Headteachers and shared your positive comments on social media. This makes a real difference in terms of morale – **thank you**. Undoubtedly, there will be further tweaks as time goes by. We will keep reflecting on what is going well and how we can improve things further, whilst ensuring that the provision is sustainable for staff and appropriate for pupils/students. Please rest assured that we will always consider how best to get the balance right between live screen time and other forms of remote learning, so that your children can learn and make progress.

Alongside the academic work, schools are also very mindful of children's and young people's welfare and are keeping a close eye on this. If you have any concerns, please contact your child's school for advice. Thank you for encouraging your children to participate in their remote learning, engagement has been very high. I know this is not always easy but we are very grateful for all that you are doing in this regard. We are monitoring participation and colleagues will feedback if there are any concerns.

For those who have **children in examination years**, I know you have many questions. We are waiting for further updates but our teams are poised and ready to put plans in place which are rigorous, fair and equitable. Headteachers will keep you up to date as this situation evolves. We will also be monitoring closely the progress of pupils and students in all year groups so that we can make sure they are making progress.

Please can I remind you that **27 January is a planned Professional Development Day for all our schools** and so they will effectively be closed on that day. This means there will be no "pop-up provision" for children of critical workers or vulnerable children, or remote learning, on that day. It is important that we maintain our planned professional development, to ensure that staff can maintain and strengthen provision further. The theme of the day is Diversity & Inclusion and will cover a range of subjects, from curriculum, to SEND; from mental health to developing pupils and students as learners. We will also be offering a range of sessions on learning and teaching, including how strategies are adapted to online working.

All the very best to you – take care of yourselves and your families.

Yours sincerely

Miss M Davies
Chief Executive Officer