

1 October 2020

**To all parents, carers and students within the STAR community**

Today I have written out to all of our staff within the STAR MAT to express a very simple message which I thought I should share with you and also re-iterate directly to you as well: **thank you**

The last few weeks and months have been fraught with complexities and difficulties for all of us.

As Trustees, we are conscious that our staff have in effect been on the front line, caring for and supporting young people and families, working with ever evolving advice and guidance, within tight time-frames and often in challenging circumstances.

All of us have been grappling with common issues as well: how we can best keep ourselves and our loved ones healthy, juggling our own personal caring responsibilities, and looking out for our friends, our neighbours and communities.

However, what we see throughout our schools is resolute positivity. Our young people are happy, settled and motivated in their learning. This does not simply 'happen', it takes skill, motivation and talent from our people within the Trust. It also takes encouragement and partnership from home; parents engaging in dialogue with school leaders to help prepare themselves and their young people for school such as their return could be the best that it could be. We are not naïve and understand that for many of you, this will not have been an easy 'journey' to school return; indeed, you may still have ongoing concerns and we undertake to continue to listen.

There is no doubt that we are going to see continued complexity over the coming weeks and months; we may well encounter increased frequency of self-isolation or 'bubble' closure and re-opening, perhaps even the need to take further measures into the designated Tiers of school closures. These things are very hard to predict. What we do know however, is that as a Trust we have already proven to be so much *stronger* with our schools working *together*, to help and nurture each other along, to have a shared voice and hopefully find some shared positivity when at times it is so difficult to see.

Thank you for your continued support on behalf of the Trust Board. I hope you remain safe and well, and please continue to take care of your own wellbeing and support each other.

Yours sincerely

Nick Sheppard  
Vice Chair  
for and on behalf of the Trust Board

---

CEO: Ian Yapp B.Sc. (Hons)

The STAR Multi-Academy Trust, Rose Cottage, Toulston, Tadcaster, North Yorkshire, LS24 9NB  
Tel: (01937) 538538 ; [www.starmat.uk](http://www.starmat.uk) ; e-mail: [CEO@starmat.uk](mailto:CEO@starmat.uk)