

December 2020

Dear Parents/Carers and Students

As we come towards the end of the Autumn Term, I think we must ALL say thank you to each other. Without parents and carers, staff and students all working relentlessly together over the past days, weeks and months, we would not have been able to achieve what we have.

It has not been easy. Indeed, it might not always have been successful. At times, we have needed to implement processes which have changed the fabric of what we have always done in our schools. But, we have seen thousands of students back where they need to be - learning in their classrooms. Schools have coped admirably with the challenges presented by any need for Covid-19 related closures with swift calm responses- this has kept our students and pupils as safe as possible, whilst continuing to learn remotely where needed.

The journey is far from over though; January will be another leap into the unknown, so please watch out for school level communications, both this term and early in the New Year, as across the Trust we will be insisting that every element of rigour we had in early September is in place for the first day back after Christmas - we need to keep everyone safe.

Whatever the next few weeks and months may bring, *our Trust takes your trust in us very seriously* and will continue to ensure all aspects of in-school pastoral and educational delivery are tuned in to make sure every student and pupil makes the best possible progress over the rest of this academic year and beyond. We will also continue to refine all aspects of remote learning in the background, to make sure we have strong contingency plans in place for every student and pupil.

In my role as Executive Headteacher at Riverside, around now I would be expecting to attend some 7 nativities and also look forward to hosting around 150 local folk for our annual sing-song on the last day of term. Of course, this year we just can't do what we have always done, but despite that, from 11 individual discussions at school level, I know we have STRONG school communities and an increasingly strong Trust community too.

We are genuinely STRONGER TOGETHER.

I wish you a very Merry Christmas and the best possible start to 2021.

Yours sincerely

Ian Yapp

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