

Aylesford School

and Sixth Form College



wonder aspiration respect discipline

15th May 2020

Dear Parents & Carers

I never imagined that my first letter to you as Headteacher would be written in the midst of a global pandemic, with our daily lives turned upside down by the need to protect each other at this uncertain time.

However, although it has been a very difficult few months for everyone, I am tremendously proud of the way in which parents, carers, staff and governors have worked together to ensure that our children continue to receive an education. This situation is a new experience for all of us and it has been heartening to see how our school community has persevered, adapted and risen to the challenges presented during the lockdown.

For the majority of our families this has meant working tirelessly with their sons and daughters to help them complete schoolwork set online by our staff and I would like to take this opportunity to thank all those who have kept in touch with the school to help us develop and improve these online lessons and assignments. For as long as it is needed, we will continue to develop the delivery of these resources to enable your children to continue their learning whilst at home.

For those families where parents and carers work to maintain critical services the school has remained open every weekday since the start of the government restrictions to enable their children to complete their work in school with the support of our staff. In addition, we have worked hard to ensure that vulnerable students have access to our school and that all those families that are entitled to receive free school meals have everything they need to successfully access the national voucher schemes that were introduced before Easter.

There will be many more challenges ahead. I know that the Prime Minister's recent announcements indicating a phased return to school for some students has generated as much concern as it has optimism for the future. At present, we are keenly focused on examining just how our school might be reopened for some students in the coming weeks. I'm sure that you will understand that this process presents serious practical difficulties and will require considerable thought, planning and care if it is to be accomplished safely.

Whilst it is normal for there to be speculation and rumour about such an important return to normality, I would ask you to be patient and trust us to keep you reliably informed of developments as things progress over the next few weeks. Please rest assured that the welfare, safety and good health of all in our school community remains at the very heart of any decisions that we take on this or any other matter.

'from potential to reality'

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We all look forward to a time when Aylesford's buildings are once again full of the sights and sounds of a normal school day. Until then we must ensure that we look after each other, remain positive about the future and continue to stay safe.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'T. Hodgson', written in a cursive style.

Tim Hodgson
Headteacher