



4 January 2021

Dear Parents/Carers

Happy New Year!

I sincerely hope you have managed to find some rest and joy over the break, although I know a number of you will have spent some of it in isolation. If you, or members of your family have been unwell, I trust that you are feeling much better.

No one likes arrangements that change or are cancelled at the last minute, and we would certainly prefer to be able to communicate with you with more notice, and with more clarity. As you will be aware, there have been a number of updates from the Department for Education over the Christmas break, right up to the end of New Year's Eve. In addition, we have interventions from professional associations over the last few days. All of this has meant that guidance for the start of term has changed significantly. One such document was a guide for parents which you can find [here](#).

I must thank and praise the Headteachers and all those in schools and Central Services, who have spent much of their break preparing for the start of term on very shifting sands. They have had to adapt and amend plans at short notice and, despite their frustrations, have truly gone above and beyond the call of duty.

The details of how these plans relate to your child will be sent to you by your school's Headteacher. Please watch out for these communications, as there will certainly be changes as we go along. As ever, please rest assured that the safety of pupils/students and staff is always at the forefront of our planning and risk assessments. If your child is at a secondary school and you (or someone you know) feel they may be able to volunteer to help with rapid testing, please contact the Headteacher.

We are also very mindful of doing our very best to maintain our standards of education and supporting students in Years 11 and 13. The schools have had contingency plans in place since early on last term, summaries of which are on school websites, so they are well placed to provide high quality remote learning programmes.

So, as we start this new term, **thank you** in advance for your continued patience and support.

Let's look forward with optimism to what I hope will be an increasingly "normal", but most importantly healthy 2021!

Yours sincerely

Miss Mary Davies
Chief Executive Officer