



7<sup>th</sup> December 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

**Re: 'The year that made history' (December 2020)**

As we come closer to the end of this year, the reflections and lessons each of us have learned will undoubtedly stay with us for many years to come. It has been a year of uncertainty, and for some, grief and loneliness. But perhaps most importantly it has also been a time to understand the true value of our freedoms and the importance of loved ones. As we approach Christmas, the importance of kindness and community is in the fore of our thinking, having no doubt had our own experiences of isolation and anxiety as the pandemic evolved this year. We think of inventive ways to keep our children smiling during difficult lockdown times. Indeed, Finham Park's 'Elf on the Shelf' and his antics has been one of the many things we are doing to bring festive cheer to our students and staff!

I have been overwhelmed by the resilience and positivity of our school community as we have worked together to ensure Finham Park not only continues to provide outstanding education for all but also evolves to provide a new, blended way of learning. We were delighted to open our new T Block and bespoke Café6 provision earlier this term and to welcome back our Year 12 students to full time study. Our state-of-the-art facilities provide Post 16 students with a plethora of study spaces and a brand-new café in which to have university style discussion working groups. We are also thrilled that our designs for the next stage of our site development have been approved, meaning that our new E Block can now progress to the planning permission stage. This will provide extra classrooms and a superb Performing Arts block as well as a viewing area for students and parents to watch some of our fantastic sporting fixtures.

We have all had to be innovative in our quest for normality this year. As a school we have found many ways to develop our practice and be more effective in the way we meet and use our time. Christmas is a special time. But we remember that for some it will be the most challenging time of the year. Having recently recovered from COVID-19 myself, I was reminded first-hand how valuable friends, family and colleagues are to us in times of need. I do hope that the magic of Christmas reaches out to you this year and that as we enter the festive period, we have a clear understanding of the power of true kindness.

So as 2020 draws to a close I would like to thank you all for your continued support. I wish you all a very safe and Happy Christmas and hope that 2021 brings us all a year of joy and happiness as we slowly emerge from the restraints of 2020.

Merry Christmas a Happy New Year.

Yours faithfully,

Mr Chris Bishop  
Headteacher

