



29<sup>th</sup> May 2020

Dear Parents/Carers

**Re: Letter from the Headteacher 'Seeing some light at the end of the tunnel' (May 2020)**

Headteachers are familiar with difficult decisions. Heavy snow, Norovirus outbreaks and most recently Covid-19, being some of the most challenging. I always believed that the hardest decision a Headteacher ever has to make is whether to close the school. As it turns out though, it is a far more complex decision and thought process for re-opening than anyone could have ever imagined. As we move forward into the beginnings of the next stage of the academic year, we are carefully planning how and when we will welcome back more students to school. We will provide more details of these plans over the next few days and weeks.

I have been eternally grateful for the help and advice of colleagues and health and safety professionals who have supported us in navigating the ever-changing landscape of national advice and updates. As you would expect, the school's Leadership Team has been actively engaged in discussions and activities over the past few weeks, focused on preparations for the eventual return of more students to the school in the coming weeks / months. One thing is for certain... the 'new normal' that is often talked about will not feel normal for some time, but we will learn, grow and overcome the challenges that are ahead.

And so, we turn our attention to risk assessments, strategic planning for the long-term curriculum and most importantly, the well-being of all our students and staff. Each and every one of us has longer term lessons that we can learn from being in lockdown. Whether that be committing to embracing the privileges we so freely have enjoyed 'pre Covid-19' or, learning to work in a more efficient way, embracing the technologies that we may have previously shied away from. Changes to our working practice I'm sure will include how we conduct meetings, the need to produce ever more effective online learning environments for our young people and treasuring the limited face to face contact with others. These changes provide us with a focus for the future and a sense of hope that we can and will overcome the challenging climate that we are currently facing.

I do hope you enjoyed a well-earned break over the warm bank holiday. Stay safe and well as we all look forward to the evolution of our new normal.

Yours faithfully,

Mr C Bishop  
Headteacher