

20 July 2020

Dear Parent/Carer

I think I can speak for everyone in each of our school communities when I say that the past four months have probably been amongst the most challenging in our lives. However, the support and sense of community that has prevailed in all of our 11 schools is testament to you, your children, the community in which you live and our staff. Thank you for your patience, understanding and continued support. Together we are stronger and as 11 schools in one trust we are united in wanting all of our children to return in September, so that they are safe, happy and continue to flourish. We have missed seeing them all and we look forward to welcoming them back.

The media continues to report on the need for students to 'catch up' when they return to school. Our Trust's ethos is one of putting the whole child at the centre of all that we do, academic progress is important but happiness, mental health and personal growth is also vital for us. Rest assured, and I repeat from my previous letter, whilst we want children to catch up quickly, our immediate priority in September is to welcome them back, to ensure they feel safe and secure and to acknowledge that this has been a challenging time. We want them to know that we have missed them and that we have plans in place for whatever further challenges we might face.

Only when children feel safe and secure, are they ready to learn and at that point we will start our plans to find and fill the gaps in learning and move their learning on. Every school has developed their plans in order to catch up and continue to challenge and motivate our young learners, so again this should offer you reassurance. These will be communicated to you by each school in the new school year.

Finally, please be aware that the plans our schools have made are all subject to change. As with all things Covid-19 related, we have to plan for different scenarios and to be able to adapt and accommodate. The summer holidays will still be a busy time for school staff planning and preparing for September. However we also expect our staff to have a well-earned break.

We have put together a list of organisations that offer help to families, should you need support during the summer closures. You can access the list from the [Support and Guidance](#) section of our website.

We are aware that life will not entirely return to normal in September and we will have to make some operational changes at our schools to ensure the safety of all. However, the focus on children, families and communities will remain unchanged.

I wish you a happy, safe and restful summer and I look forward to seeing children return to school in September.

Best wishes

Daniel Thrower
CEO, The Wensum Trust