

Monday 20<sup>th</sup> April 2020

**Parents and Carers  
of TQEA students**

Dear Parents/Carers

It is in undeniably strange and unprecedented circumstances that I write to you for the first time as Principal of TQEA. My first thoughts are that you and your families are safe and well and remain so in the challenging weeks that are ahead of us. If there is any support that you need please do not hesitate to contact us, since our staff are still contactable and continue to work to support our amazing students.

Firstly, thank you to all parents/carers who have sent such supportive and encouraging messages to us in recent weeks. It is most appreciated and I want to extend a huge thank you to you all for the way you continue to support us and your child in their learning. It is also wonderful to see some of the work that our students have been doing at home and hearing of the deeds of kindness they have shown others. I think it is at times like these that we thrive as a community and showing relentless support for one another is crucial. I hope to showcase some of the work our students are doing and some of the deeds of kindness on our Twitter and Facebook accounts in coming weeks, as well as communicating with you about any developments from the Department for Education as we hear them.

I would like to draw your attention to Mr Ward’s letter about the new home learning scheme for every student from this week. We feel that the approach we are introducing will enable students to remain motivated. The scheme offers a varied curriculum which will support you at home through the ease by which your children will be able to access work over the coming weeks. We feel that the variety of activities will encourage your child with the points system in place for each activity and will support them longer term with their progress. I am particularly fond of the kindness and well-being activities and I would ask if you can support us by encouraging your child to participate in these as well as the curriculum tasks. Please note that we are expecting all children to maintain healthy work routines at home in which we expect students to work for 2-3 hours per school day. All of the home learning activities will be on Google Classrooms by noon on Monday April 20<sup>th</sup>. As stated in Mr Ward’s letter, if you need a hard copy of the activities please contact us on the address he has provided. Students who have had work posted home in recent weeks will be in receipt of these new learning activities by mail over the next few days.

Working with you as parents/carers will be the hallmark of our work in achieving the very best for your child in the future. I would like to reiterate that we want your child to be happy, academically successful and prepared for adult life at the end of their time at The Queen Elizabeth Academy and I would ask you to work with us respectfully to achieve our aims together. Working together we can achieve amazing progress for your child in a learning environment of the highest quality, built on the foundations of excellent personal behaviour and mutual respect. We will care for your child and will be committed to their happiness and safety during their time with us and we will be delighted to celebrate their incredible successes and achievements with you in the future.

In this first letter to you I wish to thank senior leaders Mrs Clare and Miss Hill who have worked for many years at the school and have made such a positive impact in our community. We will miss them and we wish them every success as they leave us to start in their new schools. We are excited to welcome Mrs Gibson, our new Assistant Principal, Miss O’ Brien, Subject leader of our exceptional Mathematics department, and Mrs Coley who joins us as

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**Principal: Mr N Harding - (BA Hons) PGCE**

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Mathematics Lead Practitioner. I am confident that these new colleagues will add great strength to our excellent staff team and will bring the highest quality of learning and care for our students in the years to come. On a personal note, I am delighted that Mr Wilson will remain with us as our Executive Principal and he will be working closely with me and our staff team to continue to provide an exceptional education here at TQEA.

I am very proud to be the new Principal of this great school and I look forward to working with you and your children in the coming years. Some of you may remember that I worked here, in our old building, as a Head of Year and Humanities teacher between 1994 and 1999. On returning to the school 20 years later, I was struck by how the building had changed, but the wonderful spirit and heart of the school that I loved way back then has remained. We have always been a school that prided itself on its wonderful community spirit and its assured place in the heart of our Atherstone community. Those attributes will certainly remain in the future.

I will write to you shortly about the exciting plans we have to enhance the education for all here at TQEA and to continue the school's ascendancy in its journey of excellence. However, at this time, I want to wish you and your family the best of health. It is a time to support one another and appreciate our loved ones. I look forward to meeting you all when we return to normal conditions.

Please stay safe, well and look after each other.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Neil Harding', with a stylized flourish extending from the bottom of the signature.

Neil Harding  
Principal  
The Queen Elizabeth Academy