

19th June 2020

**Parents and Carers
of TQEA students**



**The Queen Elizabeth
Academy**

“We Can and We Will”

Dear Parent/Carer

I write to you today with a sense of pride in the way we as a community have come together to support the wider opening of TQEA for year 10.

It has been a great pleasure to welcome scores of Y10 pupils into the academy this week in a safe, thriving learning community. On arrival some pupils have been excited, some have been anxious and some having just woken up! However, every single pupil has shown completely exemplary conduct with regard to our safety arrangements and has been supportive to our teachers in tutorials. I am proud of every single one of your sons and daughters who attended, as no doubt you are, and they have been great ambassadors for the school. What has been especially pleasing is the smiles on pupils' faces as they left the academy with comments such as, “We needed that,” and “It was great to see people again”. Indeed, all the trepidation and nerves had evaporated by the end of their day with pupils being on the right path with their remote learning and having had the face to face contact with teachers we promised them. It all happens again next week with students coming in to the academy and leaving it on the same day and at the same time.

As a parent myself I know that every day you send your child to school there is a great amount of trust and belief invested in us. At this current time we live in, I know that you as parents have trusted us more than ever to ensure that your child is safe and well in school. We have had outstanding support from our Estates team at the Academy Transformation Trust and, on site, Mr Bovington, Mr Pattinson and our cleaning colleagues who have been exceptional. Further to this staff have risen to the challenge in order to deliver meaningful sessions and to support our pupils with the transition back into school effectively. Therefore, I want to express my huge appreciation to all involved and especially to parents for supporting us in reinforcing our protocols for a safe return and trusting us to meet the safety procedures we promised you and your child. This really is a case of excellent team work!

We are still open daily for children of key workers and it has been wonderful to see this group work hard this week in creatively making designer face masks/coverings whilst continuing with their remote learning on Google Classrooms. They also experienced a great Mathematics lesson recorded by Miss O'Brien, which was enjoyed by all. Please contact Mrs Bickley if you feel that your child requires provision in school due to your role as a key worker.

You will have noticed that teaching colleagues are also giving good feedback to pupils about how to improve their work and are sharing recorded tutorials. This approach is to ensure pupils reflect on their new learning and correct any misconceptions they may have developed. We are looking at more ways we can engage with pupils positively about their learning at home in the next few weeks, as it is crucial that every child continues to engage and make progress.

Finally, when we do return to a normal situation, I want to ensure that every parent and child fully understands our expectations around uniform policy and meets it. It is well documented that high standards of dress code in schools promote pride, learning and also enables students to make more progress in the long run. This is something we all want for our children and where the parent/academy partnership is crucial. I ask that all parents and carers take note

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of the acceptable uniform wear and, in particular, from this September supply their child acceptable formal shoes for school and not the trainer style shoes that are widely advertised by sporting labels and retail outlets as being fine as school wear. Please do not let your child persuade you that any branded leather trainers e.g. Nike, Adidas or Converse are acceptable, they will not be permitted from this September. Mrs Bickley will be issuing photographic guides to parents in the coming weeks so that there is clarity and to ensure expectations are met in the future and when it is appropriate for children to be in uniform again.

Please stay safe and well and thank you, once again, for your valued and continued support.

Yours sincerely

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

Mr N Harding
Principal
The Queen Elizabeth Academy