

15th May 2020

Parents and Carers of TQEA Students

Dear Parents/Carers

I hope you are all safe and well.

Like many of you I was absorbed by the Sunday night national briefing from our Prime Minister, Boris Johnson, outlining how the next few weeks might look for schools and colleges. I want to reiterate that, at the same time as you did, we heard a potential road map for lifting restrictions on life, which would include some return to school in the next few weeks for our current year 10. At this stage we are waiting for precise details regarding how this ambition by the Department of Education may come to fruition. Please rest assured that all of us at Academy Transformation Trust schools, which TQEA is part of, are desperate to see our children back at school, but we will be making sure that the safety of our community is the absolute priority, as always. To use the words of our CEO, Debbie Clinton, any return to school will be **steady, safe and gradual** and when the time is right and safe to do so. As soon as more details emerge I will be in touch.

I want to thank you, our wonderful parents, for the way you are supporting home learning so brilliantly! We know that our children are being motivated and encouraged at home to follow the remote learning timetable and to complete their learning grids. Do remember that we are on hand to support you, so please do not hesitate to contact your child's tutor or teachers for support. It is important that your child is completing work at home to ensure that they are making progress with their learning before they return to school. After half-term we are moving to a different learning approach, since the grids will be finally submitted before half-term, and we want to ensure your child remains motivated to work. Please watch this space for details!

Parents of year 11, I do empathise with the situation we find ourselves in since I have a child who has missed out on examinations they worked hard for this summer. I know that there could be a feeling of deflation at not having had the opportunity for your child to show the impact of their hard work in an examination setting. Please ensure that your child knows that their work has not gone to waste and that it will provide the gateway to post-16 study and apprenticeships. We are working extremely hard, following the Ofqual procedures outlined by Mr Ward, to ensure that year 11 pupils are rewarded for their hard work in their subjects in an equitable manner. In the meantime, Mr Ward has sent some transition work for Year 11 to help them as they approach post-16 study, and I urge you to ensure your child does these and any other tasks that their future post-16 colleges might send them. There is a considerable leap in the challenge presented by post-16 work and gaps can be bridged now to ensure your child is ready for their new courses in September.

Finally, thank you for your supportive messages to us. They have really helped to make us smile at TQEA and we are extremely grateful to you. Your support is always appreciated and it is important that we work together since we all want the absolute best for your children. It has been wonderful to see how, as a

community, we have really come together in the face of adversity that has been presented to us. Please stay safe and well.

I will be in touch again soon.
With best wishes,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Neil Harding'. The signature is stylized with a large 'N' and 'H' and a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Neil Harding
Principal
The Queen Elizabeth Academy