



PONTEFRACT
ACADEMIES TRUST

23 October 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

I hope that this letter finds you and your families well. As an education trust, we would once again like to thank you for your support in managing what continues to be challenging circumstances. We could not be prouder of the way our school communities have pulled together to keep our schools as safe as they can be.

Leaders and staff across the schools have worked extremely hard over the last few months, and I know that they appreciate the positive comments that have come our way. Managing the logistics of staff and pupil movement, intensive cleaning and health and safety processes, and ensuring strong teaching and learning takes place have been a constant focus. I am extremely proud of our people across the Trust and I am sure that you would join me in thanking them for their commitment and resilience. I congratulate you on the behaviour of your children, who have been keen to get back to their learning. I have thoroughly enjoyed seeing our pupils hard at work in our schools and staff have been very impressed with the positive attitudes to learning and behaviour shown by all.

I am pleased to say that our risk assessments and safety measures have been highly effective, with relatively few cases of Covid-19 in our schools. We have always followed Public Health England advice and will continue to do so. As we are all aware, across our region the number of cases has been increasing and it is vital that we all continue to be vigilant and, work to the measures put in place that help control the spread of the virus, remembering to focus on hygiene and social distancing both inside and outside of school. The focus absolutely remains on keeping everyone safe. Thank you all for playing your part.

You will be aware that from 22 October 2020, all schools have a legal duty to provide remote learning to pupils who are unable to attend school due to Covid-19. We have worked hard to get our remote learning offer up and running and, achieved much in a short time frame. We would ask all children that are self-isolating, but are fit and well, to engage in their remote learning. Please encourage your child to do so. Staff across all schools have moved at some pace to address any gaps in learning and deficits and, we do not want them to fall behind.

Covid-19 has clearly brought many challenges and we can feel and see this in our own community, as well as what we see and hear via the media. I appreciate there is a weariness and fatigue. The government's guidance continues to change constantly. As a family of eight schools, please be assured that our priority has always, and will continue to be, to follow the guidance strictly and keep our children and young people safe when they are attending school.

Finally, I wish you all a restful and healthy half-term. None of us can be sure of the situation going forward and it seems to change so quickly. Trust leaders, school leaders and staff will all continue to work as hard as possible to keep schools open so that your child can continue to achieve safely.

With very best wishes,

Julian Appleyard OBE
Chief Executive Officer