



Toynbee School

a specialist humanities school

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Dear Parents, Pupils and Carers

I would like to thank you for your support and the many kind messages that we have received. I am amazed at how quickly we have all adapted to this strange way of living!

I hope you are all keeping safe, and the week has gone well.

I am delighted that most pupils have made a great effort with the work being set on remote learning. We have been checking the work that has been completed and it is good to see that so many of you have adjusted to this new way of working so quickly. I am mindful that we should always endeavour to get the balance correct and ensure that as well as having plenty of opportunity to continue your important studies and make progress, you are able to look after yourselves and your families. We will keep you updated regularly. Your teachers, guidance managers and other members of the team here will be checking on you to ensure that you are OK. We are always here for you and if you do have any questions please get in touch with us.

Life in school is very strange without all the pupils here, however the critical worker and other pupils that are attending school are working very hard and have settled into the new routines and ways of working. As always behaviour has been exemplary, and the staff are delighted with how they are responding to the lessons that are taking place. We received some new guidance this week which has meant that we have been able to offer some sport and exercise which has been a good thing to be able to do.

At this point I would like to say a huge thank you! to all the parents and members of our community who have responded to my appeal to support us in putting in place a larger testing team for the return of all pupils to school. We will be in touch with further details and how they can help once we have finalised all the logistics and detail. The testing of staff at the school is nearly complete and I would like to say thank you to the Team here who have set up, trained, and made this possible.

In other news we are currently in the process of recruiting two new Assistant Headteachers which is very exciting and long overdue. It has been particularly challenging balancing all the needs of the school with such a small leadership team during the past year. I have been overwhelmed by the number and quality of the applicants for these posts.

Finally, I wanted to update you about some exciting changes which will improve the school environment. A canopy and covered area will be built during half term so that the outside food pod is protected, and pupils are able to queue without getting wet. I am also pleased to announce that I will be meeting with the county council next week to discuss the next and final phase of window replacement for the school. There will also



be further school improvement projects in the coming months, and I will let you know about these once I have had confirmation.

I hope you have a peaceful and relaxing weekend, and I will update you further next week.

With all good wishes

Matthew Longden

Headteacher

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