

19th June 2020

To: Parents and Carers

Dear Parent/Carer

I hope you remain safe and well. Thank you for the support you continue to show to all of us as we continue to work together, whether at home, or in our academies.

When I last wrote to you we had just made the decision to open more widely for the identified year groups. Thank you for entrusting your children to our wonderful staff who've yet again risen to the challenge of providing a blended learning and social experience for those in the buildings and those at home. I hope you will agree that all our staff continue to provide the world-class support, education and safe environment you have come to expect.

One week on from my last letter, I have watched and listened to the staff, talked to the children and it seems to have been a very successful week. Students I've spoken to in years 10 and 12 would like to come back next week and the staff would too, although some would like to have done more teaching! Those in our primary schools have settled in so quickly that it reinforces the view that sometimes we may underestimate their resilience and adaptability.

There's been such a lovely atmosphere in all three academies. We've been free from the accountability of external tests, examinations and inspections that has brought us back to the core of what it means to work in a school and work with children. The buildings have been soulless without them but this week that soul has been rejuvenated with the wonderful interactions of children and adults working alongside each other; free to teach, support and learn unhindered. When exams and inspections return, if anyone is able to retain that spirit of enjoyment, our staff and students can.

We want your children and our staff to have the best possible start in September so I want to give you as much notice as possible that we will not be open until Monday 7th September. We want to take the first four days of the term to prepare for everyone's successful return. I hope you will appreciate the notice we're giving you and understand the reasons.

Thank you again for your support.

Yours sincerely



Jonathan Johnson
Chief Executive Officer



West Lakes Multi Academy Trust

Registered in England: Company Number: 6627459 Registered Office: Main Street, Egremont, Cumbria CA22 2DQ

t: 01946 820356 w: www.westlakesmat.org.uk