



Dear Parents/Carers,

I recently wrote about to you about the end of term. In this final letter of the term I would like to briefly highlight the successes of our journey this term. I am really proud that The Valley rose to the challenges it has faced and stayed true to the STAR Academies' three key priorities: *'Keeping our pupils safe, happy, and well'*; *'Achieving academic excellence'* and *'Looking after our staff and community'*. Whilst many schools worked hard to deliver a modicum of educational provision for their communities, The Valley adapted, overcame, and truly excelled.

Operationally, the splitting of the school into what is effectively mini schools, has proven to be popular with staff and students alike. The restructuring of the school day, to accommodate separate breaks and lunchtimes for each year group, as well as staggered start and end times to the school day has provided a calm school environment.

The school's Covid-19 preventative measures have proven successful and there have only been a few instances of Covid-19 across the school. A minimal number of students and staff have had to isolate as a result of being in close contact with affected peers and colleagues.

The school's digital/blended learning model has become increasingly effective, with students absent from school able to continue learning and staff able to deliver remotely where required. With the distribution of laptops where needed, I am proud to say that access to the curriculum from home has been supported throughout the term.

Student and staff attendance to school has been good but is always an area to work on. This is reflective of the effective Covid-19 measures in place, parent confidence in the school's practices, and staff satisfaction and wellbeing. We will not become complacent.

Teaching and Learning have been at the heart of our work this term and this is improving rapidly. Weekly CPD and support from STAR is allowing for the implementation of a really challenging curriculum. We are confident that the latest assessments will reflect the significant gains students have made since returning in September.

The coming terms may well present additional trials and challenges, but the school is well placed to address anything that is put in front of it. At The Valley, we continue to strive to offer our students an education that is second to none.

As I have noted previously, I really appreciate the support parents have given the Academy. I know that Christmas often brings new gifts for students. Can I ask for your support in advance in ensuring that:

- Expensive gifts are not brought into the Academy.
- Only the Academy Uniform is worn on return (students will be expected to correct non-academy items before entry).
- Christmas make-up, jewellery and hairstyles return to normal.
- Students return with basic equipment required to be successful.
- Students are to bring face masks to school for wearing in communal areas as directed by the Department for Education. Whilst the Academy is not responsible for the provision of face masks for students, they will be provided for students at a cost of 50 pence per mask. This will take effect from Tuesday 5th of January 2021.





The Valley
Leadership Academy

We look forward to seeing our students on Tuesday the 5th January 2021 at 8.45. I wish you a happy and restful Christmas and a prosperous and healthy New Year.

Yours sincerely,

Mr O'Brien
Executive Principal

