



Oliver Burwood

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Dear Staff, Governors, Trustees, Parents and Carers in DNEAT academies,

As the academic year draws to an end I wanted to take this opportunity to thank you for all that you have done for the children in our academies in your various roles be it at home or at school.

There is no doubt that in the future we shall remember 2020 in the same way that we recall other key dates in history but this time we have lived through the period ourselves. My thoughts and prayers go to those who have lost loved ones.

On Wednesday 20 March the Prime Minister announced that all schools would close their doors to most children two days later. From the moment that the announcement was made, school leaders set to work on preparing for home learning for the majority and ensuring that provision was made for those children who needed to attend school. That was 17 weeks ago and since then, schools have continued to support learning at home and to enable more children to return to school, albeit in very different circumstances. Thank you to colleagues, trustees, governors, parents and carers for your understanding, support and challenge during that time to enable us all to provide the best we could - it has not been easy for any of us but collectively we have made it to the end of term.

Being able to take a break now is important for everyone who works in and supports our schools. Many staff have worked through the Easter holidays and the May half term which is why we took the decision, along with the vast majority of schools across the country, not to keep our schools open during the summer holiday period. There are of course some holiday clubs and activities that are running at our academy sites and parents in those communities will have been made aware of them.

I feel particularly for those children in Year 6 and Year 11 whose final year in their respective schools has been disrupted so much and want to reassure them and their families that we will do all that we can to support them in the next stage of their education.

Looking ahead to September, I wish I could say that life will return to normal. But clearly this will not be the case as we work to prepare for the return of all children in a way that is as safe as is practicably possible. I ask please for your patience and understanding as our Headteachers put in place the plans that we have for the new term. Some of these plans will

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undoubtedly need adjusting once we see how they work in practice and we will continue to keep you informed of them.

I hope that everyone is able to enjoy some time of rest and recuperation between now and September. With that in mind and we look forward to our school buildings being refilled with the sounds of happy children enjoying being back with their teachers, support staff and friends.

Yours sincerely,

Oliver Burwood

Chief Executive Officer, Diocese of Norwich Education and Academies Trust (DNEAT)