

1st April 2021

Dear Parents, Carers, Staff and Students

As we approach Easter, I'd like to take this opportunity to thank everybody for their contribution in getting our school back to some kind of normality.

A special mention needs to go to all those who have volunteered their support with our on-site testing. The organisation and coordination of this was frankly phenomenal as was the professionalism of all. My gratitude goes to the members of the Parent Forum for their active engagement and positivity. In our most recent meeting with them we had lots of great discussion around wellbeing and pastoral support for students as they return back to school.

Within school, students have been incredible and are a credit to the town of Faversham and beyond. They have returned to school life with an energy and zeal that is nothing short of impressive. Their commitment to improving our community is something to be admired and makes all of the adults in the school very proud.

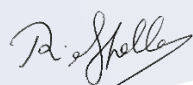
School staff have been relentless in their efforts to ensure that the return to school life has been one that puts student support front and centre. I'd like to give a particular mention to the one-to-one work carried out by our pastoral team, form tutors and academic mentors.

The resilience of our whole community during the last 12 months has been amazing; nobody could have predicted the set of circumstances and challenges that we have had to collectively tackle and I have been humbled by the lengths that all of you have gone to, to ensure that the community focus within our school endures. Only today, a number of our students were out planting trees around the school site, which will benefit the next generation of children who pass through The Abbey School. I have also had the pleasure of awarding prizes and certificates to a number of students including those that were successful in the Golden Ticket draw for this term. It is all hugely impressive.

I know that you will share my hope that in the coming weeks some of the national restrictions will loosen which will allow us to plan for a number of the community activities that would ordinarily take place across terms 5 and 6. Events such as community week, sports day and awards evening have all been staples of the Abbey calendar for many years and would provide a welcome opportunity to come together, were this possible. We will, however, make judgements around all of these types of events as more information emerges and dependent upon the circumstances at the time.

Have a wonderful Easter break and enjoy the time with your families.

Kind regards



Dr R Speller
Headteacher

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