



# Whitefield

Academy Trust

22<sup>nd</sup> October 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

## Half Term Update

As we come to the end of our first half term of the year, I would like to thank you for the very warm welcome you and your children have extended to me since I began in September. Visiting our schools, I have seen that pupils are happy, secure and thoroughly excited to be back. I have been especially pleased to see that our new pupils at Whitefield Schools and Joseph Clarke School have settled in exceptionally well, making new friends as well as building their relationships with staff.

Staff have been determined to ensure that pupils continue to succeed despite the challenges of Covid and I hope you will agree that the term so far has been full and vibrant. Attendance has been superb and consistently higher than the national figure for special schools. Thank you for your support with this and for everything you have done at home to support the new rules and processes we have in place to keep the school Covid-secure.

Having said all this, I know that the autumn term so far has not always been easy, with a number of 'bubble' closures due to cases of coronavirus. Whilst not unexpected, these can be difficult and unsettling so we have done everything we can to keep our schools open and as safe as possible. We continue to follow all the national guidance and to liaise closely with all the relevant authorities when we have confirmed cases.

Even with the continued difficulties posed by the pandemic, there is much to look forward to next term – particularly the arrival of our lovely new 16-seater minibuses which will enable our pupils to access off-site educational visits more easily. In the meantime, I wish you and your children the very best for a happy and enjoyable half term break.

Yours sincerely,

Kirstie Fulthorpe  
Chief Executive Officer

P.S. As ever we enjoy your feedback and are keen to know how you think we are getting on. Please feel free to complete our questionnaire for your child's school using this link: [parentview.ofsted.gov.uk](https://parentview.ofsted.gov.uk). See the attached sheet for help on how to register.