



Whitefield

Academy Trust

31st March 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

As we come to the end of another successful and extraordinary term, I wanted to reflect on the past year and thank you all for your patience, understanding and unwavering support throughout this challenging period.

Just over a year ago, we could have scarcely imagined how much all our lives would be affected and how much schools would need to adapt in order to respond to the pandemic. Throughout this unsettling and ever-changing period, teams across our schools have been determined to provide pupils with the same learning opportunities and level of support they have come to expect from us. We know how important it is for many of our pupils to follow consistent routines and remain within familiar environments which is why we have sought to give pupils as much stability as possible whilst following strict social distancing and hygiene measures.

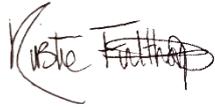
On joining Whitefield Academy Trust in September, I was hugely impressed by the robust procedures in place to keep our pupils safe. Whilst we had hoped the worst of Covid-19 was behind us, the exponential rise in cases across the country brought new challenges and the inevitable closure of bubbles and the switch to remote learning for some pupils at times. We were hugely grateful for the support of parents throughout this period and the active role you played in supporting our remote learning programme and then in helping pupils settle back into school. Never has the partnership between our schools and home been more important and we greatly appreciate the role you played in supporting your child's learning.

The start of the Spring term brought new challenges and whether your child attended school in person or accessed our remote learning provision, I very much hope that they have enjoyed this term. Despite the situation, teams across the schools have sought to provide pupils with an enriching school experience and ensure they continue to make progress. As we reach the end of term, I am delighted that the vast majority of pupils are back at school, enjoying face-to-face learning. I am pleased to report that attendance at Joseph Clarke and Whitefield Schools is high and well above the national rates for special schools.

Thank you for again for your support this year. The kind messages you have sent our staff have been much appreciated. As we have seen time and time again over the past year, it is impossible to predict what will happen next but, whatever the future holds, we will always put the wellbeing and safety of your children above all else.

May I wish you a safe, relaxing and enjoyable Easter break.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kirstie Fulthorpe". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'K' and a long horizontal flourish at the end.

Kirstie Fulthorpe
Chief Executive Officer