

12th February 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

I would like to start by thanking you for your support of the school during these unprecedented times. This has certainly been a difficult period to be a Head of School and I am incredibly grateful to have been able to rely on your goodwill and belief that, at all times, we have been taking decisions in the best interests of all the students and staff.

Since the start of the national lock down in January we have been able to offer a combination of remote and face to face learning. We have had a very limited number of children on site, those who have the greatest level of need and those whose parents are key workers. Largely we have been very pleased with how the students have engaged with the remote learning on offer, a mixture of tasks uploaded on our learning platform. We have all had to adjust and I would like to take this opportunity to thank the staff for the immense efforts they have made to ensure the children continue to be academically challenged and engaged in their learning.

Next week, week beginning Monday 15th February, we are looking forward to our half term. I am sure you will agree that both staff and students have earned a well-deserved break. In line with government policy we will not be opening the site that week.

As you are probably aware, we are expecting a further announcement from the Prime Minister on **Monday 22nd February**. The government have promised schools a period of two weeks to organise the possibility of some sort of re-opening on 8th March. At the moment, we have no idea what that might look like but, as always, we will endeavour to keep you fully informed as soon as we have the details.

Until the announcement on Monday 22nd February it is our intention to continue with our blended learning offer, as we have since January 4th. This means that we are trying to operate in the spirit of the lockdown in order to keep both staff and students as safe as possible. Only students who we believe to be extremely vulnerable will be offered our limited face to face sessions. Otherwise, it remains our view that the safest place for the students is to **remain at home** and engage with remote learning.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions or feel free to discuss this letter with the staff member contacting you daily as part of our welfare call programme.

With very best wishes to you all.

Peter Forrest

Head of School
Bramley Oak Academy