27th April 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

Welcome back to the start of possibly the strangest summer term any of us has ever experienced.  
  
Much has been happening over the last few weeks in the academy and I wanted to take this opportunity to update you.  
  
A massive thank you to all parents for your help in keeping students engaged in learning at home. In total 95% of students accessed learning either online or using paper copies of work that we have sent home. Well over half of all students are regularly completing work and engaging with staff for all their lessons. This is much better than the national picture as reported in some newspapers. I know how hard this situation can be with a child of my own, so I really appreciate your efforts in this regard. It will have a massive impact on ensuring that our students don’t fall behind!  
  
The academy was open over the Easter holidays to provide childcare for key workers. Many thanks to the staff for their help in supervision duties and organising activities during this period. The Free School Meal voucher system is now up and running and should provide further support to the community  
  
Year 11 are still very much part of the academy. We are beginning to set up online Google Classrooms to start helping Year 11 students prepare for September.  Further information will be shared shortly but you will see on our website that there is a dedicated area now for this and a countdown.  
  
We will be sending out a survey for both parents and students to complete shortly. We would like to know how you are doing and what we can do better to try and support you over these difficult days. I would be grateful if you could please fill it in. A link will be e-mailed to you.  
  
There has been a lot of speculation in the newspapers about when schools are going to reopen. In all honesty, we have no idea! What we are doing is planning how we reopen safely whenever we are given the go-ahead to do so. The Government will no doubt issue some guidance on this in due course but it is important for all in our community to understand that when schools do reopen they will have to find ways of following social distancing. This means that they will have to be organised very differently. We are currently looking at what that might look like at Rivers.  
  
Please keep in touch with the academy through the surveys, website, email or Facebook. If there are any questions that you would like us to try and answer, please get in contact and we will do our best to help.  
  
Take care and stay safe.



Mrs Emma Baker

Principal