

23rd June 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

The weather this week looks to be fabulous which I think always helps when you open the curtains at the start of the day. This week our Year 10 and 12 have continued to settle into the new routines at Rivers. Today is our first step towards September. It won't have escaped your notice that Gavin Williamson, the Education Secretary, hosted the Friday Government briefing, where he stated the aim is for normal service to resume in September. I still believe we are a far cry from that and I will still be preparing for alternative models as a back-up plan. The guidance is due in two weeks but I expect this to run into the summer holidays. However, be assured that Rivers will follow the guidelines and ensure that we are ready for every possible situation.

As the school starts to resonate more widely with laughter, joy, discussion and debate it is clear to me why we have struggled these past months; we are a people organisation, a family that thrives on relationships. It has been wonderful to see staff and students happier because they are now interacting with students face to face. Working from home and working alone has, in some cases, been a useful exercise, but working as a team is so much more effective. I am sure many of you will have experienced this in your own workplaces as you have started to connect physically with more colleagues. As we begin to not only get back together but to work together we will accelerate our way through the end of this crisis. I am confident that when the dust settles we will emerge with a new found zest for our mission and renewed understanding of our purpose; why we do what we do.

Over the last few weeks, I have been working with the Senior Leadership Team on our values and vision statement for the school and before we break up for the summer, I will share with you what we have been working on, as I feel it is important as a school to continue to grow and develop and ensure that our values reflect our school and community needs.

In my correspondence last week, I mentioned that the Government are allowing us to have a face to face meeting before the school breaks up on July 15th. The purpose of this face to face meeting is for any student/parent that feels it would be beneficial to come into school and meet with a pastoral member of the school to discuss your child's wellbeing and any concerns that you may want to discuss. This will be a thirty minute meeting and is open to all students. If this is something that you would like for your child please complete the Google form accessible via this link by Monday 29th June: <https://forms.gle/kFMquejuQGE9N5s57> If the Google form is not completed by this date, then we will assume that you **do not** want this meeting.

As always if you need any support please remember we do have our wellbeing team available to you via: wellbeing@ormistonriversacademy.co.uk

Kind regards,



Emma Baker
Principal