

TRUST·ED

Schools' Partnership

September 2020

Dear Parents and Guardians

I am pleased to be able to write to you at the end of our second week in September after what has been a very successful fortnight across our Schools. Can I take this opportunity to welcome our pupils back, and especially to welcome our new pupils. I would like to make a special point of welcoming new staff and also our two new Headteachers, Rebecca Lee at Castlefields School and Lee Tristram, who has joined me here at Oldbury Wells School.

All of our Schools have successfully reopened as planned for all students. It has been a very positive experience for us all, and it has been great to see pupils across the Schools so keen to be back working hard. I have had the pleasure of being at Oldbury Wells School every day and also I have visited all of our Schools within the Trust, where I have been able to see our young people happily engaged in learning activities across our family of Schools - from a careful distance of course!

I am sure you will have been impressed by the diligent care with which our staff have fully re-opened our Schools. I would like to thank the staff, in their various roles, for their professional work and their flexibility. They have all made secure adjustments to how they work without complaint. They have put the interests of our pupils, in terms of both wellbeing and education, at the heart of this.

Behind the scenes we have been planning, just as a precaution, to ensure we are fully ready for any possible future return to Distance Learning. Obviously, this is something we all aim to avoid, but we are aware, as I am sure you are, that it unfortunately remains a possibility in the future. We have some very good plans ready if we need them. I am sure individual Schools will provide you with details, but I can provide an overview here. Both of our Secondary Schools will be using the same ICT system as last year, but with some extra elements and improvements. You may have seen on the news that Secondary Schools have been asked by the Government to plan for the temporary use of rotas, just in case they are needed. The plans are ready to roll out at quick notice and we have been impressed by the detailed work and training that has been put in place to make this so.

- Should it be necessary, here at Oldbury Wells School we will be setting work and receiving work to mark, using 'Show my Homework/Satchel:One'. This is to be supplemented with the more frequent use of Microsoft Teams to provide quality, 'live', experience.
- Church Stretton School will be setting work, using 'Go for Schools'. Pupils will submit work for marking and feedback through Microsoft Teams – and Teams will also provide good 'live' teaching for pupils.

Similarly, our four Primaries are ready to use one of the two Apps that Parents will be familiar with already – 'Tapestry' and 'Class DoJo'. We have some trials and some training underway, to see how 'live' lessons could work at Primary level and to further enhance this provision.

We have also been working carefully to make sure we have clear guidance and support for families around symptoms or illness. You will know that there have been some problems nationally with getting tests recently and we are working hard to support families and help. I know schools have given you guidance on isolation and symptoms and we all thank you for your support in working with us cooperatively to help keep our school communities safe, in what can, at times, be frustrating and worrying circumstances.

CEO

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We have been considering our options for Parents' Evening and other School events. At the present time, and with further restrictions on gatherings being implemented, we are not able to have Parents' Evenings in the usual format. We are considering the use of virtual / electronic / telephone appointments and we would welcome Parents' and Guardians' views about what may work best for all involved. Please feel free to email your child's School through the usual methods if you have a view you would like to share.

Our two Secondaries are planning their Virtual Open Evenings and I am sure those of you with children in Year 6 will be interested in the arrangements, due to be unveiled soon!

Kind regards

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Sarah Godden". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized 'S'.

Sarah Godden
CEO
Trusted Schools' Partnership
Oldbury Wells School