



Phoenix St Peter Academy



17th May 2020

Dear Parent/Carer,

I hope that you and your family have been staying safe and enjoying the weekend. I wanted to share an update on three things, which are below.

Comments in the media about schools and students

There has been much debate in the media over the past week about schools re-opening. A lot of this debate has centred on safety, but much of it has also been about whether or not teachers and students are working hard enough. At Phoenix St Peter Academy I am incredibly proud of our staff and our students. Our staff are doing their utmost to ensure education continues. Your children have also done a brilliant job of adjusting to the difficult world of home schooling. If they hear panic in the media about the future of young people who have not done enough for their learning, please make sure they know this doesn't apply to them. They are doing an excellent job and their futures are secure.

Thank a teacher day

On Wednesday it is National Thank a Teacher day. Our teachers work incredibly hard and are doing an excellent job. It's difficult for them not seeing your children, just as it is difficult for your children not seeing their teachers. I have had many teary meetings with teachers since closure because they care so much. It would really brighten their day to receive some thanks from students. I'd be grateful if you could encourage your child to send a thankyou. They can do this by emailing their teacher, or by sending an e-card through the Thank a Teacher website (<https://thankateacher.co.uk>).

I would like to personally extend a thankyou to any parents who recently contributed to the fundraising campaign for the staff who have been working at our childcare provision at the Limes. This is a vital provision which has enabled many of our families who are key workers to go to work and many of our vulnerable pupils to be safely cared for. The campaign raised over £300 and we have secured a keyworker discount from Tropics Skincare, meaning all teachers and support staff at the Limes will receive a gift bag of Tropics goodies, a handmade face mask and a special message from our community. There was also some money left over to include cakes for all the staff next week at the Limes.

School re-opening

As you would expect, we are making detailed plans for how to safely re-open school and working with Reach2 and the Chair of Governors to assess the risks involved. We have contacted all parents of children in the year groups the Government has asked us to consider opening for and have used their views to inform our assessments of how we can open. Once the final plan has been agreed we will share our intentions with all parents.

Thank you for your amazing support of the school and your child in these very challenging times.

With warmest wishes,

Nadia Paczuska
Headteacher

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