

Date: 31/08/2020

Dear Parents/Carers

I hope this letter finds you all well.

Amongst all the chaos and mayhem that has been the national examination results, I would firstly like to offer my thanks and congratulations to all of our Y11 and Y13 students who have recently received their long awaited examination results. I can only thank them for their patience and maturity over the past few months (which have no doubt proven to have been some of the most trying they have experienced whilst in education) and congratulations from all of us at NAAT, for getting through this and now being able to move on to the next phase of their life. Whatever that next step is, I wish them the very best of luck and really do hope that they are now able to continue on the path they planned.

I am delighted to report that Airedale Academy continues to see improvements and success at both GCSE and BTEC, with an upward trajectory in results. Well done and thank you to all the staff and Principal, Miss Proctor, for their hard work and ongoing commitment to our 11-18 pupils within our community.

Thank you parents and carers for your continued patience and understanding during such unprecedented times. As a Trust we continue to look forward and remain positive and upbeat as we move into a new academic year. We simply cannot wait to welcome our staff and students back in to school next week.

You will now be aware of your child's school opening plans and are able to view their comprehensive Risk Assessments on their individual websites. I urge you to take the time to read these and in particular, familiarise yourselves with the opening plans for the 8th September. You will undoubtedly feel that these plans are quite different from what you and your child is used to and indeed they are. These are not normal times and we have had to adapt our normal practice in line with government guidance to ensure a smooth, safe experience for your children and for our staff.

You will see via media coverage that many schools across the country are beginning to open successfully and without issue. You will understandably feel anxious about your child's return to school but please feel reassured that we have spent a huge amount of time and energy on planning for our reopening, and as always, have kept the health and safety of our pupils and of our staff, central to all of our plans. We simply want to focus on what matters most – getting children and young people back into the essential routine of school and learning.

In my last letter to you, dated the 17<sup>th</sup> July, I reminded you of the importance of your child's full attendance at school from the beginning of the autumn term. Although the first week back in some school reopening plans require a phased approach to ensure all pupils are clear of our expectations, 100% attendance to school thereafter will remain a priority for each school in our trust. We will work with you to ensure all of our pupils return to school and it is vital that you liaise with us and work with us so we can support you and your child/children as best we can.

May I remind you that the school calendar 2020/2021 is available on your school website and that for those families who wish to book holidays for next summer and/or during the academic year 2020/21, it is important you refer to these published calendars in order to avoid term time holidays. This is even more important after such a lengthy period away from school for our pupils.

I wish you all a relaxing and enjoyable remainder of the summer break and look forward to welcoming our young people back to school next week.

Yours faithfully,



**Elizabeth Fairhurst**

*Chief Executive*

Northern Ambition Academies Trust