

ALEC REED ACADEMY

Bengarth Road, Northolt, Middlesex, UB5 5LQ
Tel: 020 8841 4511 Fax: 020 8841 4480
www.alecreedacademy.co.uk
Acting Principal and CEO: Phil Cosby



16th December 2020

Dear Parent / Carer

In a 'normal' school year, this letter would focus on events such as the Christmas Concerts and Fayre that would have celebrated the end of the autumn term. Many of these are entrenched into the history of the academy and are valued by pupils, parents, and staff alike, unfortunately, like so many other aspects of our lives they had to be sacrificed to maintain the well-being of our community. There is little doubt that Covid-19 has had an impact on us all and many of us will have suffered personal hardship in some form. Whilst this may continue in the short term, there is a good chance that by the time Spring returns the vaccine will have been distributed to those most in need and the risk of serious illness will have significantly reduced.

As difficult as it may seem we need to lift our heads to look at the future. There will be a time when Coronavirus will be a thing of the past and our children and grandchildren will look back nostalgically at 2020 and talk about how they were part of the 'Covid Generation' and overcame the virus. We will focus on the positives that have come out of this crisis. For example, the greater value being placed in our wonderful National Health Service and the awareness that Black Lives Matter has highlighted. We can also see benefits in school in relation to the rapid improvement in our approach to home learning and the way that our academy community has become stronger with skills such as resilience, fortitude, kindness, and trust coming to the fore. I genuinely see the academy going from strength to strength as we recover from this experience.

The footballer Marcus Rashford is an example of a national figure who has displayed these core values to make a difference during the pandemic. As a direct result of his lobbying of government, every child registered as being eligible for Free School Meals will be issued with £30 of vouchers to cover the Christmas holiday period. If you are an Ealing Free School Meal family the vouchers will be issued by a company called Blackhawk Network. You do not need to register or provide any information; Ealing Council will write to you to let you know when to expect the vouchers which will be sent to you by email or text. Similar arrangements are being made by other local Councils.

The pupils return to school on Tuesday 5th January. Do please make sure that any uniform issues are resolved for their return. I also apologise in advance for any potential disruption near the Primary entrance as we start the redevelopment of the derelict building, to the left of the primary gates. Over the next six months this will be totally renovated to provide two additional classrooms and further enhance the facilities within the academy.

Finally, I wrote to you last week to confirm that today, Wednesday 16th December, will be the last day of school for children. This decision widens the gap between the end of term and Christmas Day reducing the risk of infection to you and your families. Hopefully, everyone will continue to stay safe and well over the break however, **if your child tests positive for COVID-19 between today and Tuesday 22nd December** and you have not already notified the us, you should **inform the academy immediately** at enquiries@alecreedacademy.co.uk giving the following information:

'The Collins PiXL Award for Outstanding Progress' National Award Winners 2014



- The date any symptoms started
- The date the COVID-19 test was taken
- The date the positive COVID-19 test was received
- The last date your child was in the Academy

It is important that we receive this information promptly so that we can support the track and trace process and inform any close contacts that need to self-isolate. Taking this approach will reduce the risk of further spread, help to keep everyone safe and well and ensure that whatever your faith, you get some time with those that you love this Christmas.

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year,

Phil Cosby
Acting Principal & CEO