

12 February 2021

Dear Parents and Carers

### **Chair of Governors update**

As we draw to the end of this first half term in lockdown, I want to take this opportunity as Chair of Governors to acknowledge the hard work of the fantastic team of dedicated staff that we have at Stocksbridge High school.

A huge thank you to teaching, pastoral, admin and premises staff, teaching assistants, technicians and senior leaders who have pulled out all the stops to provide a minimum of 5 hours of learning each day for students that are remote-learning and supervising those still attending school. All our students have been able to follow their curriculum through live lessons, pre-recorded content and independent learning tasks supported by resources all planned and prepared by staff. This has been a huge undertaking for everyone, and I'd like to acknowledge those many staff members who have the challenge of supporting remote learning with their own children at the same time.

I would like to particularly recognise the work of the pastoral and SEND teams that have maintained regular contact with many students and families through this and the previous lockdowns.

I'm pleased to say that the school has been able to loan over 120 devices to students who have no access or shared access to a laptop or tablet to complete online learning, and 4G dongles for students with limited or no access to Wi Fi. I would also like to thank Bolsterstone Education Charity, the GFG Foundation, Christ Church and Laptops for Kids for their kind donations and support in providing equipment to students. I know from Mr Ireland, that there has been some brilliant work by our students who are showing great resilience, positivity, and adaptability in what is a really challenging time for them. It's good to see so many students engaged in their learning, you should be very proud of them all. I want to thank all our families for your continued partnership and support with remote learning; having two sons myself I don't underestimate how difficult it can be at times - especially if you're working from home too, but it does make a big difference. I hope you feel that you have the support of the school with this if you need it.

Finally, thank you for the tremendous effort by all the support staff in school who essentially keep the school running, and particularly the premises staff who have done a tremendous job of keeping the school clean and safe for our students throughout COVID-19. They are all an integral part of the team at Stocksbridge. Let's hope that we can get our students safely back into school, and back into lessons with their friends and teachers as soon as possible – it just isn't the same without them!

Thank you everyone for all you are doing, it is very much appreciated. I hope you all have a well-earned rest over the February Half Term break and enjoy your time off.

Stay Safe and Well.

Best Wishes



Sarah Cavanagh  
Chair of Governors  
Stocksbridge High School