

16th July 2021

Dear Parents and Carers,

I'm sure you would want to join me in thanking the Headteachers and staff of all our schools for their commitment and dedication in a year unlike any other. The pressure on schools caused by Covid has been relentless, affecting the progress and wellbeing of all our young people, and many of our families.

Our schools have worked so hard to ensure that young people's education has continued, and even though the conditions have been much less than ideal, our pupils have been well-served. This has continued despite and throughout the daily, all-consuming demands of track and trace.

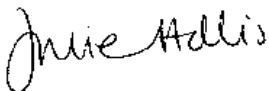
We appreciate all the isolations have been frustrating for you, particularly in recent weeks when there has been more social contact and the spread of the Delta variant has been so rapid. But it is what schools have to do, and I would like particularly to thank all those staff – teachers and support – who day after day (and night after night) have been checking who has had a positive test/who is a contact/who must be notified/who can come back. It is a huge tribute to their dedication and professionalism that our schools have kept going.

After this, everyone has earned their holiday, and we wish all our families a period of relaxation and recuperation, whether you are able to go away or not.

Our schools will keep going during the holiday, as staff push forward with all the repair work, capital projects, ICT re-imaging, replacements, upgrading. We are all keen to prepare for a more 'normal' autumn term where pupils, particularly in secondary, are taught in specialist rooms, and can move safely around the site.

We will confirm the arrangements for the start of the term by letter **week beginning 23rd August**. We expect in secondary to have a staggered start to allow for Covid testing and the induction of students who were not able to have transition days this summer. As yet, schools have not had guidance from the DfE, and things could change again before September. So please bear with us. Headteachers will contact you with full opening details, following their risk assessments, in the last week of August, based on the most up-to-date Government and Public Health advice.

Yours sincerely,



JULIE HOLLIS
Chief Executive Officer
The Cranmer Education Trust