



17th July 2020

Dear parents, carers and all of the Chessington School community

'An arrow can only be shot by pulling it backwards'

I've always loved this quote. Not just because, as a History Teacher, it conjures imagery of Harold Godwinson in Hastings, the march across the American West or Genghis Khan stood on horseback taking on China. It is a quote that has always guided me through different or challenging times. It solidifies my belief that I know, even when life presents obstacles that drag us backwards, that I'm about to launch into something great as long as I stay focussed and take careful aim. This is how I feel now as we emerge from lockdown. That we have had the challenges, have, hopefully, conquered many of them and are now launching toward the year ahead, clear of our purpose, focussed on our goals and confident in our aim of getting our wonderful children returning to Chessington School in September.

Thank you to parents and families that 'tuned in' for the live Question and Answer session for our return in September, on Wednesday evening. I hope you found it useful, that your questions were answered and that you feel confident we are doing everything we can to support a safe return of your child to school. If you were unable to do so you will find a link below to a recording of this live stream:

[Q & A Session with Mr Ali 15th July 2020](#)

I also attach the link to the slide deck used in the presentation so that you can go through with your child and they can be clear of what is happening. Please do take the time to sit with them, talk through with them and reassure them so that we know we will have them back in September:

[Plan for September Presentation](#)

Everyone valued • Every day an opportunity • Every moment focused on success



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Parents I also want to thank you for your support, your home learning and your kind words throughout this. I can only imagine what a challenging time this has been for so many families, so to keep the focus on learning that you have in so many households has been a real feat; thank you. Your children have also been fantastic. They have engaged in what we have done, offered and expected. Many have gone above and beyond which you will have seen in the reports we sent out earlier this week that celebrated engagement. I am so often amazed by the resilience and determination of young people in the face of adversity and this has been no exception. Thank you for what you have done with our children, will do over the summer and for getting them ready to be back at school in September. I have thanked you and your children in a message to all children, sent to them today which you can see here if you wish or if they have not yet seen:

[End of term message from Mr Ali to all Chessington students](#)

Over the summer myself, the premises team, leadership team, teachers and more will be working to make sure that we are preparing, planning and assessing any risk at all. Rest assured we will cover every eventuality. Once we have done all of this and have quality assured we will send you further information later in the summer holidays. You will receive a Year Group specific letter for your child with guidance and a Frequently Asked Question sheet. Alongside this I will do another Live Q and A before we return so that you have that opportunity again as we get closer to September. Do remember please that you can send any questions to contactus@chessington.kingston.sch.uk. This email address will be monitored through the summer and questions will be sent to me from it.

Finally I would like to take the time to thank my colleagues. I always tell them that being in a school teaching or supporting the learning of young people is the best job in the world and I wholly believe that to be true. It helps though when you have colleagues that care for children, love teaching and will go above and beyond. I am blessed to have such colleagues and I want to formally thank them here and hope that you join me in recognising their work every day before, since and after lockdown. Thank you colleagues.

All in the Chessington School community please take care and stay safe. As I have said before, let's make sure our children act in the best interests of the community. Parents and Children I hope you get some time to rest. Thank you for the privilege of being your Headteacher and I cannot wait to see you all in September

Yours sincerely

Mr A Ali
Headteacher