

## A message from the Principal to all Pupils / Students

01 April 2020

I've been thinking a lot about how life can suddenly change and how we all react in different ways to what is happening to us individually and to the world in general.

Let's look at a couple of examples close to home? You – and me!

Take me for instance. One minute, it seems, I'm doing an important job responsible every day for 1050 of you and about 300 adults doing different jobs to make the Academy work as well as it can possibly do. I get up at 6am and drive to the Academy to be there early and get on with many things before it gets busy and before you all start to arrive. My day revolves around routines. Lots of face to face meetings with staff and visitors and with quite a lot of you popping into my office for a chat each day or seeing you in the corridors. It's a very busy job with a massive amount of responsibility and I often get home tired and in need of a good sleep before it all starts again the following day. But I love it! What keeps me going is making sure that everything works properly so you can all learn and make progress and – above all - that you want to come to the Academy each day and are happy!

In what seems like the blink of an eye – everything has changed!

I'm writing this at home, isolated from the outside world where everything I've taken for granted over the years has suddenly disappeared. My family is 200 miles away and there is little prospect of seeing them for what could be months. My daily routines are gone. All those interactions every day with you, staff, and visitors are becoming a distant memory. I've been pitched into a totally different world that is bounded by the walls of my home.

I've been thinking a lot about **You** – all of you over the last week or so.

You are all at home – your daily routines in school no longer there. Probably family members are now at home too. You might be uncertain, frightened, confused, worried about the future. Worried about your work falling behind, for some of you thoughtful about the grades you might have achieved in examinations now cancelled and all the work you have put into making sure you are successful. You also might sometimes be relieved that you aren't in school – so am I – especially the getting up at 6am! We are all human after all!

Then I thought about this. There is **no** difference, at all, apart from where we all are at the moment, to what we all need to do. I continue to lead, manage, motivate, thank, and hopefully inspire a wide range of staff. I keep in touch with other schools, the government, the Skinner's Company, your parents/carers. I plan things we need to be doing next term, next year. In fact, all of the things and the people I was responsible for – I still am – but doing it in a different way.

The same applies to all of you. Your teachers are setting you work and finding ways of feeding back to you how you are doing. You still have responsibilities to engage with and have good attitudes towards your learning. You still have futures that will be much better and more fulfilling as a result of the learning you are still involved with. We still expect you to do and be the best you can in the circumstances.

This will come to an end. We are all coming to terms with a world that has changed. It will return – hopefully a better world and one where we have all learnt the value of each other and how much we rely on each other.

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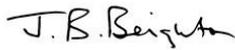
***Finally - a promise.***

I will **always** do my best for you. So will your teachers and all the other fantastic staff at the Academy. We believe in you. We want you to succeed. We know that each of you is a unique individual who will in your own way help to make the world a better place when this is over.

We won't be sending you work to do over the Easter holiday. You can make your own decisions about work you might **want** to do but it will be up to you. We all deserve a break ready to start again with renewed energy after the Easter break.

***This will be over.*** We **will** be stronger as a result of what we have gone through.

Take care – and please let us know any ways we can improve what we are doing for you in the meantime.



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