



13<sup>th</sup> January 2021

Dear Parents/Carers

I hope you are keeping well and managing to follow the Government guidance as we all do our bit to try and see off this horrible virus.

As you know, schools are now delivering education for most children remotely and I appreciate this will be a challenge for both children and their parents. Schools in our Trust have been collaborating together to develop their approaches to remote education tailored to the specific circumstances of each school. Remote learning describes all of the different kinds of activity directed by teachers including reading lists, worksheets, project tasks and the use of IT. There has been a tendency for people to think that 'remote learning' is all about technology, but this is simply not the case as was highlighted in a recent report published by Ofsted – LINK.

Technology is, however, proving to be a very powerful tool in supporting our remote learning offer across the schools. Teachers and leaders across the Trust have been rapidly developing their use of packages such as Microsoft TEAMS, Showbie and Zoom to deliver a variety of activities including live lessons. The capacity of each school in terms of IT capability does vary, and although we have worked hard over the last year to put a common IT platform in place, schools will differ in their use of technology.

We also know that our young people may have their own issues with accessing online resources from home. Problems with bandwidth, access to a device and the cost can be barriers to learning. I hope you will have seen the work we have been doing together to ensure we can provide a device for every child in our Trust. Our intention is to rapidly remove any digital barriers to learning for our children.

As part of the remote learning offer teachers may choose to use live lessons, but these are not the only or necessarily the best way of delivering quality learning for your child. The recent report from Ofsted states that 'live lessons are not always best'.

I have been hugely impressed by the work being done on remote learning across our Trust by dedicated teachers who are doing their very best to meet the needs of our children. They will continue to develop the remote learning offer and as a Trust we are providing support and encouragement for collaboration that leads to an even better experience for our children. We have received a huge amount of positive feedback from parents and are grateful for the support that you are providing for your child's learning at home.

Remote learning is completely new to all of us and there is a period of adjustment until we all find how to make the most of these difficult circumstances. We cannot hope to replicate the experience of being in school but I can assure you that our Headteachers/Principals and their teams are doing all they can to make sure that the experience for our children, whether at home or at school, is as good as it possibly can be.

Yours sincerely

Richard Sheriff

**ALLIANCE      LEARNING TRUST      TEACHER TRAINING**

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