

# NORTH HERTFORDSHIRE HEADTEACHER CONSORTIUM

21st May 2020

Dear Parents/Carers

## JOINT STATEMENT FROM NORTH HERTFORDSHIRE SECONDARY SCHOOLS

All secondary schools in North Hertfordshire work closely together in the best interests of education in our local area. Over the period since March 23rd when the majority of students began remote learning from home, all mainstream secondary head teachers have been in regular communication about how we can support our students and what that might look like for each of our schools. This mutual support has really helped us navigate what has been a very challenging situation for all schools.

We are now writing following the recent announcements regarding the Government's ambition "that secondary pupils facing exams next year will get at least some time with their teachers before the (summer) holiday". The statement goes on to suggest that the Government "will shortly be setting out detailed guidance on how to make it work in schools". We are now awaiting that detailed guidance on "how to make it work in schools" from the department for Education as well as further guidance from the local authority and the teacher unions to help us make our plans to deliver this support.

Our priority at all times must be the safety of our students and staff, as well as limiting the risk of infection for the families that they will return to, and our wider community. Each of our schools has particular challenges to overcome make our sites as COVID secure as possible before we can welcome back students physically and the final arrangements that we make will look different in our different contexts. Each school will also have different numbers of staff available to come into school due to considerations such as shielding for them or their families, and this will also impact on what we can offer in school. As a result, we hope that parents will understand that making comparisons between schools at the current time is not helpful or appropriate – but we can assure you we are all trying to do the best job possible for our students. You will be hearing from your child's school as soon as they have concrete information for you about what they are able to offer year 10 and 12, and the date from which they are able to offer that support.

In the meantime, we would like to publicly thank our staff, who have managed to move from face-to-face learning to providing education remotely in such a short space of time. Given that students and staff all have different levels of access to, and skill with, technology, the work that has been done is nothing short of remarkable and we are very grateful for all their hard work. We are also grateful to all those parents who have taken the time to contact our schools to express their support – your good wishes have made a real difference to us all.

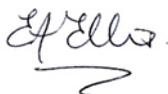
Yours sincerely



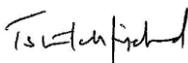
Mr Brown (Hitchin Boys' School)



Mr Edwards (The Priory School)



Ms Ellis (Fearnhill School)



Mr Litchfield (The Knights' Templar School)



Miss Macrae (The Highfield School)



Mrs Manning (Hitchin Girls' School)