

Dear Parent,

I hope that you and your family had a good half term break and that you are all well.

I am sorry to start my update letter with the very sad news that our beloved colleague, Tracy Rolf, died on Tuesday 16th February. Tracy was Clerk to the Governing Body and Administration and Curriculum Support Manager. She had been a member of the school's Senior Leadership Team and, in her role as Academy Estates Director and Business Support Manager, worked with me on the writing of the various bids which led to the new science facilities, sports hall, sixth form centre and the rebuilding of Lordswood Boys' School. To say that she leaves a massive gap in the Lordswood community would be an understatement. Our thoughts and prayers are with her family at this time.

Today we are expecting an announcement from the government on their plans for the reopening of schools and I will write to you again once we have had chance to digest the proposals. As things stand currently, we are expecting that schools will be able to reopen from the 8th March, however whether this will be a full, partial or staggered reopening is at present unknown.

Whilst we are still in lockdown, the school needs to continue to fulfil its safeguarding duties and ensure that there is regular contact with students. At Key Stage 4 and 5, attendance at live lessons enables the school to ensure that students are safe and well. At Key Stage 3, weekly phone calls are made to check that students are well and coping with work and the challenges of lockdown. Staff are often making these calls when they are working from home which means that the number shows up as 'withheld'. It is important that parents respond to these calls as, if we are unable to establish contact, a member of the attendance team is required to carry out a visit. Thank you for your support in this.

I should like to thank all the parents who attended the Parent Forum before half term; if you were unable to attend, the minutes from the meeting will be uploaded to the website before the end of the week. We will also be organising a further Forum this term specifically for the parents of year 11 and 13 students to discuss the arrangements for awarding grades following the cancellation of this summer's exams.

I hope that you have a good week.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs Jane Götschel
Headteacher