Friday 27th March 2020,

Good morning everyone,

We’ve come to the end of the first week of alternative schooling. It has been a real learning curve for us all, and it is looking like this could continue for a while yet.

I’d like to thank you all for all of your efforts this week. It has been so lovely to see pupils engaging in my challenges, and also great to see some of them setting me some too. I enjoy these and will try to respond to all of them but I can’t promise it will be on the same day.

Schools have received guidance from unions today informing us that we are expected to be open over the holidays but are not expected to open on bank holidays. Highfields **will be open** throughout, including bank holidays. Please remember that the service we are providing should be considered **as a last resort** when you have **no alternative** due to your key worker role. We realise that shift patterns change but ask you to continue to give us as much notice as possible about the times and days that your children will be attending so we can manage our staffing rotas.

I’m going to try something new this afternoon. The staff have been trialling online virtual meetings this week. At 1.30pm I am going to try to hold a virtual meeting which all pupils are invited to join. To access the meeting you need to click on the link below and enter the meeting ID (also below). Alternatively you can download the Zoom app on a tablet or phone and then enter the ID.

Meeting URL: <https://us04web.zoom.us/j/239718650>

Meeting ID: 239-718-650

I have no idea how this will work as I’ve never done this before on this scale and there is a fair chance it could go pear-shaped but I’d like to give it a go and if it is successful it is something we may try and use in future. I’m only expecting this to be for 5/10 minutes today just to see what happens. Please join me if you can.

There will be no updates over the weekend unless something major happens so have a good weekend and I’ll be in touch again on Monday.

Thanks for your continued support,

Simon Dyson

Principal