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20 July 2021

**Ref: Thank you**

Dear all

At the end of this most extraordinary year, we thank and pay tribute to all in the BEST community for their adaptability, support and inspiration.

Throughout the year, staff have risen to meet challenge after challenge, from successfully delivering online curricula, to rolling out lateral flow tests, to teaching in bubbles. As national guidelines have changed time and again, these enormously difficult tasks have been completed with calmness, grace and professionalism.

The understanding, support and encouragement of parents/carers has been incredible. There were many times, such as during those fearful days of January when transmission rates soared, where a grateful email, kind word or knowing smile made all the difference.

Our students continue to inspire. Faced with unprecedented disruption to their education, they have shown remarkable resilience, determination and commitment to be the best they can be. These young people offer such potential and hope for our future.

As we begin to return to the new normal, despite a long hard year, our schools are full of activity. Lessons are focused, Sports Days are joyously competitive and outdoor drama and music festivals exhibit great talent in beautiful settings, all of which are enriched by the return of an array of school trips and residential. Certainly, BEST excels with the quality of provision provided in our schools.

We wish everyone a well-deserved summer break. To those students and staff moving on to pastures new, we wish you every success and happiness. To those returning, we look forward to welcoming you back in September. In September, we launch our new BEST value of: *we will have the courage to be compassionate*. This has grown from the empowering compassionate leadership we have seen globally and at the heart of BEST during these times. Further, to mark the five year anniversary of BEST, discussions are ongoing to develop wellbeing spaces/gardens on all our campuses for community enjoyment.

Enjoy a great holiday everyone and take care.

Best wishes

Alan Lee  
BEST, CEO

Ilona Bond  
BEST, Chair of Trustees

Dr Alan Lee  
CEO & National Leader of Education.



BEST Schools: BEST Nurseries, Campton Academy, Etonbury Academy, Gothic Mede Academy, Gravenhurst Academy, Langford Academy, Lawnside Academy, Pix Brook Academy, Robert Bloomfield Academy, Samuel Whitbread Academy and St Christophers Academy.

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