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4th May 2020

Dear parents and carers in the Bonitas Trust,

On behalf of the Bonitas Trust I wanted to update both Ranelagh and Jennett's Park school communities on the current Trust support during these challenging times. Uncertain times often lead to extra ordinary actions and on behalf of the Trust I wanted to thank you, all our staff and our students for the incredible work you are all doing to support all our young people through these times.

Closing a school is never a decision taken lightly, not only due to the impact on academic learning but also the social and emotional challenges on everyone. Never more has our Trust ethos and values been more important in guiding us on making the best of this situation. The incredible work at both schools by the leaders and teachers has enabled the majority of our students to have an appropriate and fulfilling home learning solution; it may not be perfect but we are committed to providing continuous learning to ensure our children maintain progress in their own curriculum and also importantly continue to prepare for the next phase of their own education. Our schools have also been providing in-school learning and support for children of our key and critical workers which has been invaluable to them. We are also extending this support to some of our vulnerable children. Whether your child is learning from home or coming into school we ask for your continued support in helping your child to engage in their learning so ensuring, when schools do re-open to wider groups, we can accelerate this learning.

The re-opening of schools is a topic of discussion at Government level at the moment and we are working hard to understand what that may mean for both schools. It will not look "normal" when we first re-open our schools and we have decisions to make around the numbers of students each school can safely open to and also need to consider which year groups need to be in the first phase of re-opening. We will need to be flexible, creative and clear on our expectations of children and staff and we ask for your patience and understanding when we do publish our plans for any re-opening of schools. We will only do what is safe for both our students and staff.

As a Trust we are working with both schools to ensure they have the best guidance, advice and financial support to manage these different times. Nothing replaces time in school for young people and we will be working hard to ensure we find new ways to deliver our key enrichment activities to support your children socially, emotionally and physically over the coming weeks and months.

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It has been heart-warming to see communities coming together in many ways over the last weeks, 'Clap for the NHS' being one, and our schools have maintained their own community spirit by making visors and scrubs for the NHS and engaging with local retailers to provide food for staff and needy families. The message – we are in this together and as a school family we will succeed.

Thank you again to all staff, students and parents for your continued support and we look forward to both schools returning to a safe, engaging and enriching place to learn over the coming months.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Rainer Phillips". The script is cursive and fluid, with the first name "Rainer" and the last name "Phillips" clearly distinguishable.

R Phillips
Chair of Bonitas Board of Trustees

