

28 August 2020

Dear Colleague

As we begin the new academic year, I would like to thank you and your teams for all your hard work and for your continued professionalism and dedication, as we adapt to new ways of working and to delivering a safe and welcoming return to school for children and young people.

Whilst many things have changed in our schools and workplaces I remain committed to continuously improving our services and working together to ensure a safe and successful environment for all.

Link Officers will remain in place to ensure you have one clear, continuous and reliable point of contact, through which you can resolve issues promptly, as we continue to implement Education Restart together.

Congratulations to those of you who are commencing your first year as a school leader. I would encourage you to take advantage of both the support and mentoring available from colleagues as well as through established networks.

As you are aware the Education Minister has outlined funding totalling £42M to help support the safe reopening of schools. The funding is for the first term of the new academic year and EA Finance staff are currently working with DE to confirm the arrangements for making the funding available to schools. Schools should be updated on the arrangements by mid-September.

The attached document provides you with more information including online links and helpline details.

I look forward to continuing to work with you as we establish our new normal and to improve and deliver services and outcomes for children and young people.

Thank you and best wishes for the new school term.



SARA LONG
CHIEF EXECUTIVE