



Dear Families,

19 September 2020

Welcome Back

As Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of CHAT Academies, the Trust that runs our family of 5 schools, I wanted to write briefly to all to welcome you back.

I especially wanted to say thank you to all the mums, dads, carers, grandparents and child minders for working with us over the past two weeks to get everyone in and out of the schools safely. I was really proud of everyone. It has been almost a task on the scale of military operation to achieve successfully. Of course, we are most of all happy of all to have the children back in the classrooms.

Safety – Our number one priority

I wanted to let you know that I have weekly meetings with all our Headteachers and the Trust's senior staff to review our safety measures. Yesterday, for example, we reviewed all our protective measures and feedback we had received from parents. We will always make immediate changes that are necessary in any school. Sharing knowledge and learning across 5 different schools is also very helpful. As you may know, we are governed by a Board of Trustees and they are heavily involved in holding us to account on safety and in ensuring we have all the resources we need. The health and safety of the children, our staff and families remains our number one priority.

GCSE results success

Belated congratulations to our Year 11 families at Heron Hall Academy, our Secondary school, for their fantastic GCSE results. Heron Hall has been a top performing school in many subjects for the third year running. I hope one day in the not too distant future you will also be celebrating your son or daughter doing well in their exams. You can view the results [here](#).

Communicating with you

We do not always get it right I am sure, but we put a lot of effort into trying to communicate effectively with our families. Over the past month, for example, you watched over 450 hours' worth of content on our YouTube channel CHAT Academies. Please [consider subscribing](#). I have asked all our schools to send parents a monthly update for this academic year. Please keep in contact with your school and reach out when you need to. They all have arrangements in place to see and to talk to families.

Coronavirus

In the event of a confirmed case of coronavirus in the school we will let you know quickly what action we are taking and let you have all the available information we can give you. We will write to all parents in the school so you know exactly what is going on.

If your child has tested positive for coronavirus, you need to contact us as soon as you know. During normal school hours please call the school. Outside of school hours contact the Trust's Head of Communications, Tino Hernandez, on 07921 476 471.

Please do not leave a message on the school voice mail.

Helping the children catch up

All our schools have put in place plans to ensure the children catch up on the education they have missed. The government has promised some additional funding to help with this. We will be doing everything we can to ensure that we deliver a broad and balanced curriculum, support children if they have any gaps in their learning to catch up. There is also a focus on developing resilience in our pupils and focusing on their wellbeing. We want all children to be happy and confident learners. Across all our primary schools we will be paying for additional leading subject specialists to support children's learning throughout the year. We will do everything we can to help our children.

Reading with your children

Every single study shows that children who are read to or who read for 15 minutes a day, every day, do much better in every subject, including maths, than children who do not read. We will be relaunching our own successful Read Aloud campaign shortly. Please look out for the launch and support us.

Year 6 families – choosing a secondary school

You are about to make one of the biggest decisions in the life of your child. I would like to invite you to our Heron Hall Online Open Evening on Tuesday, 6th October (5.30pm). Details can be found [here](#). The school has a growing reputation, great exam results and a fantastic, dedicated headteacher in Arthur Barzey. You can watch a film about Arthur and the school [here](#).

Do you need help?

The Helping Families section on our school websites contains advice, information, contact numbers and a wide range of support for our families. Visit the page to see how we can help you during these challenging times. The Community Outreach team, which has received national recognition for their work, is also there to support you. See your school website for details.

Staying in contact

See the letters and calendar pages on our websites. Also please subscribe to our social media channels: Facebook, Instagram, YouTube or Twitter. Details on the website. For Cuckoo see [here](#). Woodpecker [here](#). Kingfisher [here](#). Enfield Heights [here](#). Heron Hall [here](#).

New payment system in primary schools

If you have not created your new payments account 'Arbor' please contact the school office as soon as possible for help. You now need this to pay for school meals, after school care etc with Arbor.

I wish you all well. Please stay in touch with your schools. Now more than ever we need the strongest possible partnerships between home and school. You can get the latest advice on coronavirus from the NHS [here](#).

If you would like to send me any feedback about the schools or have a suggestion to make please do not hesitate to email me info@chat-edu.org.uk

Stay safe.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Marino Charalambous', written over a light grey rectangular background.

Marino Charalambous