

**To all staff, governors, visitors and supporters of Diocese of Lincoln Church Schools**

27<sup>th</sup> March 2020

Dear Friends,

I wanted to write, straightforwardly, at the end of the first full week of school closure owing to restrictions relating to Covid-19, to thank you for all that you have done and are doing.

My brother and sister-in-law are both teachers, and I have heard directly from them about the challenges that they have faced in their context. We have spoken each evening about online teaching, about how to care for the vulnerable, and about the impact of colleagues falling ill or or having to self-isolate on staff teams. I have listened to their feelings and their concerns, and I have been humbled by their commitment and their resilience.

Tim and Karen are two among the many thousands of people across the country whose efforts on behalf of children and education will make a difference as we face this horrible pandemic together. Those of you to whom I write now, members in different ways of the family of church schools across the Diocese of Lincoln, are making just the same kind of contribution as they are - a contribution that is making a vital difference.

As I have spoken with Jackie and tried to keep in touch with other Board of Education colleagues, I have heard something about the particular situations and circumstances of some of our schools. Clearly, every school, just like every community, is experiencing the impact of the virus in its own way. Common themes, however, are to do with a huge desire to care well and huge expression of Christian service.

This is Week One. It has been confusing, turbulent and tiring. Thank you, again, for all that you have done and are doing and I do hope that you are able to get some rest over the weekend. I will be thinking of you all particularly on Sunday, as I join in worship via local radio and with our parish church online.

You are all in my prayers,

Every blessing,

+ Nicholas