



THE BISHOP OF BEDFORD  
The Right Reverend Richard Atkinson OBE

To all St Albans diocesan schools

16 July 2020

Dear Colleagues and Friends,

A few days ago in church (for the first time in four months I went to a service!) the Gospel reading was the parable of the sower. That story of Jesus about the sower and the seed - some of which lands on the path, some on rocky ground, some amongst the weeds and some on the good soil. As I look back over the last few months, there has been some of each. The ground has certainly been 'rocky' at times, especially for some of you as life has become personally hard, and for our schools faced with unprecedented challenges. We remember especially those who have died or continue to suffer the effects of the virus. The 'weeds' have been many, not least the rules and regulations that sometimes have just been too much. There are all those things we wanted to do as schools that have not been possible; in particular transition events at the end of this school year.

Despite all that, and more, there has been fruitfulness: your amazing commitment as headteachers and staff, not least with the re-opening of your schools, the way parents and carers have risen to the tasks of home-schooling and the manner in which our children and young people have persevered with their learning. As in the parable, God blesses us all as we go forward into a new school year and into a future where there will indeed be good seed on good soil. May God be with you over this summer break, which I pray will be a time of renewal and refreshment.

With best wishes

Chair – Diocesan Board of Education

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