



# Tring School

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Dear Parent / Carer

What an extraordinary year we have all had!

As term draws to a close and another academic year finishes, I felt it was important to share an update with you about the Ridgeway Learning Partnership.

As you know, we are made up of Grove Road Primary School, Tring School and Tring Sports Centre. In addition, the governors at Dundale have voted to join the RLP from 1 September 2021 and we have been working closely with the school for the last few months.

The majority of the year has naturally been centred on managing the pandemic within the school communities and this has been no small task; planning, replanning and then repeating it all again has been incredibly tough and tiring, yet the school leaders, staff in all schools and the sports centre have done this meticulously. In addition, there has been the establishment of bubbles, creating one-way systems, monitoring the local situation and reacting to it immediately when a positive case arises. I am very aware of the number of people that have faced isolation in recent weeks and the pressures this has put on families. However, if it contains the virus and prevents the spread then it keeps everyone safer.

Whilst Covid-19 has been dominating our lives, we have also been making huge strides forward in our schools. I believe that out of difficult situations we find new ways to do things and we are regenerating, renewing and reconnecting with our work differently.

- The students: they have been phenomenal and have adapted quickly as children do to the new ways of working. Of course, we are all particularly mindful of any mental health impact and have systems in place to support them. They have naturally been very technologically savvy and use chromebooks and new software packages with ease. Attendance in our schools has been very good with 97% in Grove Road and 93% in Tring (this is slightly lower because of study leave).
- The staff: they have been so determined to maintain their usual high standards whilst flexing between on-line and face to face delivery. They have been working on curriculum developments and different assessment methodology - the teacher assessed grading in Tring School was an enormous task and much time went into giving the students the best opportunity to succeed. At Grove, the students have been focusing on their writing since lockdown learning was technologically heavy. Both schools work very closely together and share a number of projects to support teaching and learning.

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- The Governors and Trustees: they have been supporting the schools, the sports centre and the new build throughout the year and their support and guidance to the school leaders and staff across the trust has been unwavering.

More recently trips and visits have started to reopen. Grove Road School saw their Year 6s go on their PGL residential. This was no small achievement given the amount of additional health and safety checks that were needed. Tring School has had a couple of activity days and an Extended Learning Day was planned with visits and this has been postponed to next year. As always, these events create lifetime memories and schools love being able to offer these.

For those of you that use our Sports Centre, you'll be familiar with the lockdown closures and then the reopenings. Thank you to all of you who support and use the Sports Centre. It is certainly great to see it thriving with so many people using the facilities. The new Dinky Dinosaurs sessions for parents and young children appears to be very well subscribed and enjoyable. The Swim School is also very successful with many children taking part.

This leads nicely onto the New Build, which you cannot fail to recognise as you drive along Mortimer Hill! The project also includes the new sports centre, changing rooms and an Activity Studio which will be beneficial for the community in the near future. The Sports Centre Manager is already planning activities for when it is open and you'll hear about those via the usual channels - Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and the website.

The New Build is planned for completion in January 2022 and already we have been able to take Tring School staff on tours. The contractors, Bowmer and Kirkland, have worked very closely with myself, other key personnel at Tring School and the DfE. We have shared before that the school is investing capital into the project to make it even better for our students, but we will need further financial support and I will be in touch with you about this at the start of the new academic year in September. Recently, we have been fortunate to welcome the Mayor of Tring, Mr Townsend, to join us on the roof for the 'Topping-out' ceremony!

Finally, I want to wish you a relaxing, safe and happy summer break.

Yours faithfully

Sue Collings  
CEO