Dear students

Today was a special day because it was the first time since March that I was able to see students from my year group in the classroom learning. Seeing the new Year 11s, so technically not my year group anymore, sitting at desks and listening to their teachers felt like a huge step forward and we can now hope that the rest of the young people will be back in school in September.

Of course not every student or their families have the confidence to return yet but little by little as the situation improves people are starting to look forward to kick-starting their education again.

It is easy to forget the role school plays in our lives. It is a pivotal part of a local community. Not only does a school provide an environment for learning but also acts as a social hub as well as offering support to vulnerable children who rely on the school staff. School connects families with other services and we also liaise with the police to keep young people safe.

Believe it or not but the teachers and support staff have also felt the effects of not being able to carry on with our normal working lives. Many of us have known one another for several years and would consider each other friends as well as colleagues.

It goes without saying that we have all missed school and have realised how important it is in our lives. Soon we will be back though and when we are we must make the most of the opportunity that school life gives us.

Stay alert and stay safe

Mr Parapia and Mr Bridge