

20 July 2020

Dear Colleagues,

This has been a year unlike any other. Even those of us with decades of experience under our belts, will not have encountered the difficulties we have faced in 2020. It has been a huge challenge. No matter what our role, it is one to which we have all risen.

As a profession, we have had to adapt and learn at extreme pace. With only two days' notice, we all had to radically alter the way we worked. In the face of media cynicism, we have rolled up our sleeves and continued to support our communities.

Education is at our core, but the cuts of recent years have laid painfully bare just how much else we do. We help to feed, care for and protect the most vulnerable. I have to say that I have never been more proud to work in education. Every single person has played their part, whether that be in the classroom or working behind the scenes to support.

It has been a joy to see and hear about all the innovative and creative solutions you have found to go above and beyond. I have heard such tremendously positive feedback from children, parents and carers. I know that our schools have enhanced their reputations beyond all expectations.

In September we will enter our third 'new normal'. Your school leaders have worked diligently with Trust staff to put in place plans that will keep us all as safe as possible. This will enable us to provide the education our young people deserve. An education that is highly likely to be more valuable than ever in terms of their future prospects.

The Trustees and I would like to sincerely thank you for everything you have done this year. Not only for your hard work and commitment, but for your indefatigable good cheer and positivity. It is greatly appreciated.

For now, it is time to take a well-earned break. I hope you will have the opportunity to spend time with your friends and families; to relax and to recuperate. Never has that holiday been more richly deserved. I look forward to seeing you all in September.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jim", written in a cursive style.

**Jim Adams**  
CEO – Clarion Academy Trust