**Cartmel Priory School, September ‘20**

Our students returned to school in a very positive manner at the start of September and we have been delighted to welcome back students both new and existing. It is a very bizarre experience working in a near empty school with students working remotely from home. We have been especially pleased to welcome our Year 7 students, who obviously missed their normal transition process from Primary School. All students have adapted quickly to the revised routines that we have had to set throughout the school to accommodate COVID restrictions. The school will continue to work within Department for Education guidelines as we move forward into this academic year.

We made a number of appointments at the start of term. It is very important that the school continues to run as normally as it can for our students. We have appointed our new Head Boy - Matthew B and Head Girl - Izzie S, supported by Deputy Head Boy - Toby W and Deputy Head Girl - Rebecca W. We are looking forward to these senior students continuing to develop their ambassadorial roles within the school and wider community.

Students have been able to share with us how they are coping following their return to school life after such a long period of absence. Matthew Bstated that he was really pleased to be back in school after the long break, but that being in school part time, in June helped with the transition. Izzie S commented that the arrangement of staggered breaks really helps with the movement of students around the school.

Despite the current challenges, we hope to run as many events from our annual calendar as possible. By the time this article is published, the film we have produced to replace Year 5 and 6 Open Evening will have been shared with primary schools and posted on our website. We continue to encourage prospective parents to get in touch with us so we can share in more detail the unique educational offer we have at Cartmel and the impressive achievements of our young people. It truly is a privilege to see them back and focussed on their learning and their futures.

Mrs Sarah Beestone

Head Teacher