

Welcome Back

Dear Parents/Carers,

A warm welcome back to school and a particularly warm one to our new Y7 students. We hope you have been fortunate enough to get away and have not had to spend too much time in queues! Thank you for booking your holidays outside of term time.

All the staff have now finished two days of INSET and are all ready and looking forward to students return. The benefits of the Federation continued to become more evident last year with both schools working even more closely for benefit of our students. We are seeing student numbers continue to rise and last term both schools paid off the remaining part of our budget deficit. This means this year we are able to increase staff to further support students and splitting more sets in core subjects.

We know you will welcome our new staffing appointments; Michelle Telford (Teacher), Fiona Rao (Teacher), Nicole Yeung (Teacher), Clara Irwin (Teacher), Sarah Nixon (Teacher), Leesah Hendry-Grist (Teaching Assistant), Aleah Wilson (Apprentice Teaching Assistant), Aidan Clark (Apprentice Teaching Assistant), Chloe Lambert (Apprentice Teaching Assistant), David Henderson (Teacher, he has taught with us before) and Denise Hughes (Teacher).

We are also delighted to have appointed Anna Firth in the new role of Lead SENCo, who will be working with Graham Wigginton (SENCo). Our Inclusion team will increase the capacity of this role across the Federation, which will help us make better provision for those students with SEND.

During last year we sent a survey to parents and were very grateful for your feedback. We have been able to take that and have used it as part of writing our School Improvement Plan. A message you gave us was you felt unclear on what your children were learning. As a result, departments have been working last term and over the summer to redesign their Schemes of Work into a more student and parent friendly version. These should be published on the school website soon.

We also have a comprehensive School Improvement Plan with seven areas of focus:

Curriculum – Improve the offer and uptake of extra-curricular activities.

Teaching and Learning – High quality assessments and feedback during lessons.

Literacy – Improve the uptake and love of reading.

Student Outcomes – Greater use of progress data to improve targeted student interventions.

Safeguarding, Attendance, Pastoral – Strive for 100% attendance.

Leadership and Management – Ensure everyone is cared for and challenged to do their very best for our community.

SEND - Remove barriers to learning for all students.

This year we will be moving to a 5-lesson day, each lesson lasting 1 hour. Staff and students felt this would give better quality to their learning and reduce the amount of down time during lesson change overs. Please make sure you are fully prepared for normal lessons to resume on Wednesday. That means bringing the correct uniform, equipment and a positive attitude to learning.

We are looking forward to a successful start to the new academic year and welcoming our students into school tomorrow.

Kind regards,



Tom Hailwood
Head Teacher