



Wednesday 24 July 2024

Dear Parents and Carers

## **End of summer term letter 2024**

I hope my letter finds you well and looking forward to the school summer break which gives opportunity for you to enjoy more time with your daughter/s, family and friends. For your daughter/s, the summer break is an opportunity to wind down and recharge ahead of the next academic year.

This year has been an extraordinary year for teacher absence including six maternity leaves. While our teacher absence data is below national average it is little consolation when there is a national teacher recruitment crisis. I am however pleased to inform you that we are approaching the new academic year with good teachers already recruited and much less need for agency staff.

Some of you will be aware that Mrs Parker, Assistant Headteacher, is retiring this summer after a successful career in education lasting 38 years; 14 of those at our school. Mrs Parker will be missed by students and staff alike. You will know her as our DSL, Head of Inclusion, Senior Mental Health Lead and for this year, Mrs Parker was our SENCO. You will not be surprised to hear that three staff will be taking on these roles going forward as the school continues to further develop its pastoral team at Associate Assistant Headteacher level. Ms Matty will be SENCO, Ms Myatt, returning to work with us, will be DSL and M Myint, a new teacher in the English department will be Deputy DSL and Senior Mental Health Lead. All three of them bring a wealth of experience from diverse backgrounds involved in also working with children who have learning and mental health needs.

We are also saying goodbye to Ms Knott after 7 years as an English teacher here and more recently including the role of Deputy Head of Sixth Form. Ms Knott is no longer going to be working in education. Ms Myatt and Ms Myint will be working with the Head of Sixth Form to support her work with the curriculum and pastoral care of our sixth formers.

Ms Innocent, after 4 years in the MFL department and this year in the role of Acting Head of MFL, is moving abroad. Ms Barral returns from Maternity Leave to resume her role as Head of MFL.

We wish all our leavers success in the future and thank them for their service to our community.

## **Next Term Start Date**

Term starts for new Year 7 and new Year 12 students only, on Wednesday 4 September. Year 7 should arrive at the Meadway gate at 8.30am; Year 12 should arrive at 8.40am.

All other year groups return on Thursday 5 September together with Year 7 and Year 12. Start times for Thursday 5 September are staggered and are as follows:

**Wednesday 4 September**

<b>Year Group</b>	<b>Arrival time</b>
<b>7</b>	<b>8:40am</b>
<b>8</b>	<b>8:40am</b>
<b>9</b>	<b>9:10am</b>
<b>10</b>	<b>9:40am</b>
<b>11</b>	<b>9:10am</b>
<b>12</b>	<b>8:40am</b>
<b>13</b>	<b>8:40am</b>

**Finally**

All our staff are looking ahead to next year, working in different ways and creating more opportunities to engage with our families. We are looking forward to the return of our students and to the arrival of our new students in September.

Until then on behalf of all our staff I wish you and your families a restful and enjoyable summer break from school.

Yours faithfully



Violet Walker  
Headteacher