

Dear Parents/Carers

On behalf of the Board of Trustees, I would like to welcome all new pupils along with their families as well as our returning pupils back to school.

As a school we have seen some change over the summer, both in staffing and structurally and I know you were all made aware of these at the end of last term but I always think it is good to have a reminder at the start of an academic year. Mr Leach remains as our interim headteacher and he is supported by Mr Verderame as acting deputy headteacher and Miss Devonshire as assistant headteacher. Mrs Scripps will be joining us as the permanent headteacher from January 2024 and she will be in school during this Autumn term working alongside our senior leadership team to ensure a smooth handover in the new year. Mrs Scripps will be coming along to our Open Evening on 12th October 2023 so you will all have an opportunity to meet her should you wish to attend.

We have also welcomed Ms Twomey onboard to teach the French curriculum, Mr Harper as our lead teacher for mathematics, Ms Berto as a teacher for humanities and Ms Chaves to teach music. I am also delighted to say we welcome back Mrs Raynham who has returned from her maternity leave to support with PE.

This academic year will bring a full return to Ralph Sadleir enrichment activities, with residential trips already planned for year 8 to visit France and year 6 to attend the PGL residential. There will also be day trips and inhouse visit for all year groups. I am particularly hopeful that Mrs Mclean continues with her support of classification in Science and welcomes back 'Spirit of the Wild' as I loved cuddling a Meerkat last year, although I was less keen to the snakes!

Over the summer we had extensive work completed on our electrics and lighting and the school have moved to the 21st century with LED lighting and much more energy efficient power supplies. This work is largely complete, although pupils will no doubt have seen some minor areas which are being finalised in early September. As a Board of Directors and alongside the new Senior Leadership Team, we will now be looking at further improvements within the school as part of our 3-year plan as well as supporting the curriculum and wellbeing of our staff and pupils.

Safeguarding as always remains our priority and we are ensuring that all changes to the new Keeping Children Safe in education are in place. Look out for our Parents updates on the safety on Social Media. Mrs Wilson, the Safeguarding lead, is regularly updating staff and Trustees on any changes we need to be made aware of and the introduction of a new computer system to support with this has been well received within school.

As a school we want to support our families as much as possible with the current cost of living crisis, so please get in touch if you need support, especially with things like uniform where we have a large supply available to those in need.

Julia Tye

Chair of the Board of Trustees