

5 September 2024

Dear Parent/Carer

Autumn 2024

It is with great pleasure that I am writing to introduce myself as your new Deputy Headteacher at Springfield School having taken on the role from Mr Wilburn. I am extremely excited to be working with you and your child to ensure Springfield continues to be a safe environment where everyone can feel happy and thrive.

Already, I have been impressed with the way the students have returned to school and are conducting themselves both within lessons and during social times. It is clear from the 'buzz' around the school that they are pleased to see their friends and get settled into new routines. Please congratulate your child and thank them from me - they have set the bar high and is a standard they now need to maintain.

Attendance

I am delighted to say that attendance at Springfield School continued to improve last academic year. However, it is widely reported that attendance nationally is a concern following the pandemic and whilst improvements have been made, our school attendance is still behind pre-COVID levels and needs to improve. It is clear that students who do not attend regularly do not achieve as well as those who do and suffer with their mental health. Attendance below 95% is a cause for concern and it is at this point that we start to see the impact on learning and progress.

The government has recently published [new guidance for all schools](#) and I will be writing to you separately to highlight these changes and what it means for parents/carers. Early intervention is essential and I would ask that you contact your child's head of year as soon as possible if there is an emerging problem.

Response to the summer riots

Whilst the long summer break will have been an opportunity for our community to relax and recharge, it was troubling for us all to witness the horrific scenes of rioting that took place around the country. There will be many families and individuals within our community that will have been impacted in some way by the actions taken by a small minority.

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I wanted to take this opportunity to reassure you of the following key points.

- Springfield School is an inclusive, safe and supportive environment for everyone regardless of their background, heritage or belief. We are a community focused school founded on strong and positive relationships.
- Any form of verbal or physical abuse between students will not be tolerated and further details of our response to such incidents are detailed in both our bullying and behaviour policies.
- Students can raise concerns or incidents with any trusted member of staff at the school.
- There is an extensive PSHE curriculum in place that will be used to educate students on crucial topics such as the dangers of mis-information, fake news and the imbalances that are causing friction within our society. This is an ongoing programme and will be addressed in taught sessions as well as assemblies and tutor times.

Should you have any concerns or questions regarding our response, please do not hesitate to contact your child's Form Tutor or Year Office in the first instance.

Mobile phones

As you will know, the school has introduced a new mobile phone policy this academic year. I have been extremely impressed by the overwhelmingly positive impact this has had on student attitudes and behaviour around the school. Students are talking to each other more and are less distracted. Thank you for your help and support and I'm confident this will continue to contribute to the positive atmosphere of our school community.

Yours faithfully

Richard Brimacombe
Deputy Headteacher

