



July 2021

Dear Parent

School culture and your support in September

The COVID-19 pandemic has been and continues to be a huge challenge for us all. I am incredibly proud of the work that we have all done to deliver the very best we can for our students, both during the lockdown periods and when school has reopened in whatever form. I thank you for your support in this, our recent parent survey suggested we have got most things right in an unprecedented time.

The 'positives' of the pandemic have seen us finding new ways to teach, learn and support children and their families. We will be taking the positives out of this experience and looking to enhance them further, for example in the use of online collaboration and enhancing learning. We will also evaluate others, such as online parent evenings, balancing the convenience of virtual events against the benefits of face to face events. We will be asking your views on these areas in the coming months.

March 2020

When we return in September, we want to restart many of the great things that we used to be able to do and which the pandemic has prevented. The majority of these things the softer experiences that we feel are so important in developing rounded young people for their lives ahead. In February 2020 we had a thriving [Opportunities programme](#), [DRIVE and Carlton Values](#) were really embedded and a culture of offering 'something for everyone' and an 'achievement for all' approach was truly in place. Our [Club Class](#) awards and [Pledges](#) were recognising the achievements of so many students and alongside this, we were awarding a record number of achievement points within our [character-building rewards system](#). In the classroom, the work on [memory and retrieval skills](#) and [Oracy](#) were having great impact in improving exam successes and building confidence in our students speaking skills. Along with this, behaviour of the majority of students was exceptional and it was a total delight to work at the school and see the successes flourishing. In 2021, we were looking forward to our next OFSTED inspection and had confidence in achieving an outstanding judgement. Then COVID closed schools.

September 2021 - restart

When we return to school in September, we want to make rapid gains in restarting all of these crucial areas of our work. We want to develop confident, successful, respectful and skilled young people who have high aspirations for their future and who contribute to the culture of our academy every day. The word 'culture' means what it feels like to be a member of our school community and the contribution that each young person and each member of staff make to it every day. The word 'behaviour' can have a negative tone, there is no doubt that the loss of routines and opportunities for young people has affected both behaviour and therefore our culture through no fault of any individual. It is our resolute determination to establish and build on where we were in March 2020. **We need your support as a parent in doing this.**



Supporting the school

When students return to school in September, we will be implementing some very strong routines in what we do and most importantly why we do them. This is about teaching young people the importance of making a positive contribution to the culture in the school. These routines and reasons will establish the tone of the academy and enable young people to learn and succeed. Staff will be spending significant time with students in learning these routines and making them happen, we will be writing to you about the themes we are covering and the support we would like from you at home each week in the new term. All of this work will link into life skills, employability and the contribution that we all make to our communities.

To help with this, we have published on our website a specific page called [culture](#). This contains a number of important resources that we would like you to look at with your child in advance of the new term. These include:

- [Home Academy Agreement](#) - the agreement between school, student and parent in the roles that we play in contributing to our culture
- [Code of Conduct](#) - how we expect every student to conduct themselves in our community
- [Student behaviour and routines](#) - expectations on how students do things in a wide range of activities and **most importantly** the reasons **why**. We also have a version of this document for staff to follow in their own work
- [Red Lines](#) - the non-negotiables for staff working with students
- [Presentation to students](#) on all of these areas - used in our assemblies and referred to in tutor time and all that we do

We ask for your support in some very simple things in enabling us to all rapidly recover from the impact of COVID on the education of young people, these are that in September and from then on you:

1. Read, agree, sign and return the home academy agreement your child will bring home on day one
2. Ensure your child understands the expectations of the school, the reasons for them and you support us in them meeting these with no excuses having looked at these resources on line
3. That students come to school each day, [on time](#), with the [equipment](#) needed and in [correct uniform](#). Where students may feel anxious about returning to school, we feel the best way to overcome these real challenges are to come, engage and succeed. Please do all you can to share this determination
4. That your child feels ambitious for their future, believing that they can and will succeed, and that we can and will overcome the COVID challenges
5. Your child will take part in **at least one** after school Opportunity each week and beyond that minimum expectation take part in as many others as they wish to from our extensive and diverse range of programmes on offer. A copy of the incredible offer for the new term will be shared with you shortly.

Your continued support in understanding our offer, opportunities and values will enable our culture to thrive and your child to succeed in their lives ahead. I look forward to achieving this together.

Yours sincerely



Richard Pierpoint
Executive Head