



04 September 2019

Dear Parent / Carer

I hope you have had a lovely summer and that your child is excited about returning to school. It was an absolute privilege to see so many children returning to school yesterday looking smart, happy and proud. I would like to take this opportunity to share with you some of the priorities for the school this year and highlight some small changes that you may notice over the coming weeks.

Firstly, as we are now moving to a three year Key Stage 4, we will be re-naming the roles within Key Stage teams. Therefore, Key Stage co-ordinators, as were, will now be referred to as Pastoral Leaders for their year groups. Assistant Key Stage co-ordinators will become Assistant Pastoral Leaders and will be supported by a member of the Pastoral Support team. Fundamentally, their roles will not change, but I felt it important you were made aware.

I would also like to remind you of some changes to key staff throughout school. From September, Mrs Ward will be Pastoral Leader for Year 10 and 11 and will be supported by Ms Forshaw and Miss Quillan. Mr Lord will be Pastoral Leader for Year 8 and 9 and will be supported by Mr Holroyd and Mrs Gordon and finally Miss Ogden will be Pastoral Leader for Year 7 and will be supported by Mrs Lowe and Mr Wark.

We are also excited to welcome Mrs Fiona Gallagher to Guiseley School as our new SENCo. Mrs Gallagher will be replacing Annie Adams who we wish well in her new role. Many of you will have also known PC Sally Bisset who has supported the school for around six years as Safer Schools Officer. PC Bisset is now retiring and so we have taken this opportunity to appoint a new officer, PC Liz Gautry, who will be working with the school from September onwards. We would like to thank PC Bisset for all her support over the last six years.

Your child was been issued with a brand new planner yesterday. In line with both the Behaviour and Communications policy, we rely on planners to record key information and as an explicit link between home and school. You, and any teacher, should be able to open the planner on the correct week and get a strong sense of how your child is doing through the number of 'stamps', the number (or lack of) negative comments and the other records. For this reason, we are asking that all planners are signed weekly and kept in immaculate condition. If a planner is damaged or we find graffiti on them, we will ask students to purchase a new planner at the cost of £5. Should this happen more than once, it will be managed in line with the Behaviour & Discipline Policy. In line with the new Communications policy, any communications or concerns that are not addressed through the planner should be sent via info@guiseleyschool.org.uk where it will then be redirected to the most appropriate colleague or department.

As well as ensuring all start of year administration is in place, we spent a significant amount of time yesterday re-visiting Guiseley School expectations around behaviour, uniform and key routines to support this. These are important areas in upholding our school values of Care, Aspire, Growth and Success. We have been very pleased with the improvements we saw in these areas last year, it is important to keep up the momentum around this and will be looking to maintain the highest standards from the first day and throughout the year.

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Another key area of focus this year will be punctuality and attendance to both school and lessons. While we made good progress in both these areas last year, and we were pleased with the progress we made in both attainment and progress for our Year 11 exam results this year, there was an overwhelming correlation between students who were in school 95% or more of the time significantly out-performing those that had an attendance of under 95%. In fact, students with an attendance of 95% or more progressed, on average, half a grade more than students who had a final attendance of between 90 and 94.9%. Therefore the evidence is incredibly clear that to achieve your full potential, you must be in school.

Finally, I hope you had a great summer and are looking forward to school re-commencing. This is an incredibly exciting time to be at Guiseley School, particularly as the first new building is only one term away from opening, and we are confident that the work we are doing is making a significant difference to the quality of every child's education and experience.

As always, if you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact a member of your child's Pastoral Team in the first instance.

Kind Regards

Paul Carney
Deputy Headteacher

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