

15th December 2023

Dear Families,

As we head towards the end of term, I have reflected on the past seven weeks and want to share an overview of Term 2 with you. In this letter I will give you a brief update on the Academy, some staffing changes for January and a look ahead to 2024. [There is a video version of this letter available here.](#)

Around the Academy

I have been delighted by the approach of students and staff this term. We have seen excellent behaviour from students in lessons and social times, which was recognised and applauded by the [external review of behaviour conducted in November](#). Work in classrooms has been of an excellent standard, with full focus, full effort and full attention really paying off in progress and attainment - especially with our Year 11 students, whose reports will be published shortly via MCAS and the Student Portal.

We are working hard to improve the punctuality of a small minority of students. Students who are late to school or lessons three times in a week will be referred to refocus to reflect on their approach and to plan strategies to improve their punctuality. We are also working hard with transport providers to address the late arrival of some buses to school, which can lead to a disrupted start to the day.

Beyond the classroom, our sports teams have excelled and our performers have thrilled audiences in music, dance and drama. Clubs, groups and activities are thriving and there is a real buzz around the Academy as our students get involved in our community. We are particularly looking forward to *High School Musical - On Stage* in February!

The website and our communications

We are in the process of refreshing and redesigning our website. As part of this process, we would really appreciate your feedback on the current website and

our communications more broadly. [Please fill in this short survey to give us your views.](#)

Staffing update

At the end of this term we say farewell to two long-serving colleagues: Mrs Clode and Mrs Moon. Mrs Clode started at the Academy in 2002 as a teaching assistant. She has been a tutor, our intervention manager and, more recently, our Academy Skills Centre Manager. Mrs Clode consistently provided excellent support to our students throughout that time and has been a key figure for many of our young people. We wish her a long, happy and healthy retirement.

Mrs Moon joined Churchill in 1999 as a newly qualified teacher. In her career she has been a teacher of PE, Head of Girls' PE, Principal Teacher of PE, Acting Head of Tudor House, more recently our SENCO and a valued member of the senior leadership team. Mrs Moon is leaving to be Secondary Education Advisor to the Virtual School in North Somerset, a vital role to support Children Looked After, which will play to her strengths as a principled and ethical school leader who cares deeply for those children who need additional support. We wish her well, and thank her for her huge contribution to Churchill over the past 24 years.

I am delighted to confirm the following appointments and staffing changes for January 2024:

- **Miss Katie O'Malley**, previously Head of Stuart House, will be joining the Senior Leadership Team as **Assistant Headteacher for Inclusion**, with overview of all priority learners including students with SEND, students in receipt of free school meals or the pupil premium, service children, children looked after or previously looked after, Gypsy or Roma Traveller children, and children whose first language is not English.
- **Mrs Agnieszka Moncur**, previously Assistant SENCO, will be the Academy's **SENCO** from January 1st. Mrs Moncur will work closely with Miss O'Malley in her specific remit for students with special educational needs and disabilities.
- **Mrs Alex Hayne** will return to her Head of House role, taking over from Miss O'Malley as **Head of Stuart House**.
- **Mr Andrew Slater** will now be the permanent **Head of Hanover House**.
- **Mrs Sophie Millner** will be joining the Academy as a **Teacher of Mathematics**. Mrs Millner is an experienced and highly qualified teacher who is joining us from Merchant's Academy; Mrs Millner will take over Mrs Hayne's tutor group (LASH).

- **Mrs Rachel Newson** joins our school nursing team
- **Mrs Claire Knight** and **Mrs Lizzie Barwick** join our teaching assistant team

Our last day of term this year is on Wednesday 20th December, when school will finish at 1:20pm. We wish you all a merry Christmas and a happy new year and we look forward to welcoming students back for the first day of term 3 on Thursday 4th January.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Chris Hildrew', with a long, sweeping horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Chris Hildrew

Headteacher