

26th May 2023

Dear Families

During the COVID-19 pandemic, I wrote a regular “Headteacher’s Update” letter to keep families informed about the rapidly evolving situation in schools and, in some cases, nationally. Whilst the pandemic is now over, I am returning to the principle of a regular termly update letter in order to keep you up to date with the work we are doing and any changes that we are making to the Academy’s operation. [There is a video version of this letter available here.](#)

We are currently undertaking a wholesale review of our strategic planning and direction. This includes a comprehensive review of our governance and leadership structure, our behaviour policy and our approach to parental engagement. We will provide further details of our behaviour review in Term 6; however, the implementation of this new approach will require additional staff training. For this reason we are announcing an **additional INSET day on Friday 23rd June 2023**. This is in addition to the planned INSET day on Monday 26th June. This means that **the Academy will close to students on Thursday 22nd June and re-open on Tuesday 27th June**. We apologise for any inconvenience this may cause, but this additional staff training is essential for us to ensure a consistent implementation of our new behaviour policy in September 2023.

Changes to Governance

Following the transition into the Lighthouse Schools Partnership multi-academy trust, our governance structure has changed. Churchill Academy & Sixth Form is now governed by a local governing body, which reports into the Lighthouse Schools Partnership’s Trust Board. The Trust Board has oversight and responsibility for all schools across the multi-academy trust. We are delighted that former Churchill Trustees Julie Kanaan and former Chair of Trustees Anne Oakley have been successful in their applications to join the LSP’s Trust Board; whilst we are sorry to lose them from our Academy governing body, we know they will make a significant contribution to the overall governance of the trust.

We are pleased to announce that Ben Hardy has been elected as the new Chair of the Local Governing Body for Churchill Academy & Sixth Form. Ben has been a governor at Churchill since 2018, serving on the Resource and Finance Committee and latterly as Chair of the Teaching and Learning Committee and Vice Chair of Trustees. Ben will be supported by Ian Cook as Vice Chair of the Local Governing Body, and by Matt Johnson as Chair of the Finance Committee. We have also appointed Steve Moir, Director of Secondary Education with the Olympus Academy Trust, as a new governor. Natalie Wilcox, Director of Secondary Education at the Lighthouse Schools Partnership, will be seconded as an advisor to our local governing body when she takes up her role in September.

Changes to Leadership Structure

We have made changes to the structure of our senior leadership team in order to address our improvement priorities more effectively. Senior leaders at the Academy now hold the following responsibilities:

Senior Leader	Post Holder	Key responsibilities
Headteacher	Chris Hildrew	Strategy, vision and values Multi Academy Trust
Deputy Headeacher (Pastoral)	Frances Dawes	Behaviour Student Services Pupil Premium Parental Communication
Deputy Headteacher (Curriculum)	Lucy James	Curriculum and timetable Data and reporting Attainment and Progress Reading Strategy Exams
Chief Operating Officer	Ally Bigwood	Support Services (non-teaching) Health & Safety Estates and Site Data Protection Transport
Assistant Headteacher (Safeguarding and Welfare)	Lorraine McKay	Safeguarding & Welfare Mental health Y6-7 Transition Looked After Children Admissions First Aid

Senior Leader	Post Holder	Key responsibilities
Assistant Headteacher (Sixth Form and Careers)	Rob Morgan	Sixth Form Year 11-12 Transition Careers
Assistant Headteacher (Teaching and Learning)	Jo Gill	Professional development Initial Teacher Training Early Career Teachers
Assistant Headteacher (Culture, Engagement and Participation)	Garaeth Davies	Culture & Engagement (inc Parents' Evenings) Student Leadership Extra Curricular (inc Trips & Visits) Social times and duties Activities Week
SENDCo	Nicky Moon	Special Educational Needs and Disabilities Inclusion Exam Access Arrangements

We hope you will find the above table helpful in understanding the leadership structure in our Academy, in case you need to contact someone about a specific issue.

Parent Contact Sessions

We are planning to hold parent contact sessions on Wednesday afternoons to develop our engagement with families. Please look out for further details of these sessions in our e-newsletter in Term 6.

Working with the multi-academy trust

We have been working closely with colleagues from the Lighthouse Schools Partnership multi-academy trust all year, and especially since we joined the trust on 1st April 2023. The support of the trust has been very welcome, both on the education side and also in supporting our work on the Academy's estate. The Trust has already agreed to fully fund three estates projects:

- Roof repairs to S17 and S18 (History classrooms)
- Paving works outside the Turing building
- Replacement of ceilings in student toilets

This contribution will significantly improve the Academy's facilities and we are grateful to the LSP for their support.

Looking ahead to Term 6

We always look forward to the summer term at Churchill, and this year is no exception. We have Sports Day, Activities Week, the sponsored walk and senior trek, Year 10 work experience, celebration of success and more to pack into the next eight weeks, alongside the completion of the annual taught curriculum for each year group in the Academy. Please continue to follow our e-newsletter for weekly updates. I would like to thank all families for your support over the past term, and wish you all a happy and restful half term.

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