



Dear Parents, Carers and Students

28 May 2021

Little did I think, when I arrived at St Dunstan's in 2014 to take up the Head of English role, that I would eventually have the immense privilege of becoming Headteacher some years later.

From the moment I came to St Dunstan's for my interview in March 2014, I fell in love with the school and that has only strengthened during my time here. I am always so very proud to be a teacher at this school and to see how our staff, students and community work together as a team.

I have been lucky enough to work closely with Mr Howard during his time as Headteacher and have shared his vision for excellence for the school and from the students. I am looking forward to carrying that vision forward during my tenure as Head. I wish Mr Howard every success in his new role and I know that he will have a positive impact on his new school.

Whilst Covid has disrupted all our lives, school has carried on supporting students either virtually or in school. I know that the regular contact from teachers has been instrumental in developing the positive relationships between school and home.

As we now move to a more 'normal' school life, I would like to make you aware of the following: Recently, we asked staff and students to choose the vision statement for the school. Staff were asked to come up with their top adjectives to describe the students, staff and the school community. A range of statements were written and then staff and students were asked to vote. The winning statement was:

Our school supports our students in aspiring to accomplish their desire to achieve by recognising their strengths of friendliness, honesty and creativity whilst encouraging them to develop resilience, an inquisitive nature and kindness.

This statement will be on our website from next term along with our core values of **Truth, Awareness, Resilience and Kindness**.

A very close second place went to the statement:

Our school is a community where aspiration, resilience and kindness are valued and celebrated.

All staff now include this statement as part of their sign off on emails

In order to 'live' our vision, I would like to remind everyone about the importance of being ready, respectful and safe:

- Being ready to learn by being punctual and bringing the right equipment every day.
- Being respectful by wearing the correct uniform with pride and treating everyone with kindness and respect.
- Being safe by following the school rules to ensure that we are all looking after each other.

From Monday 7th June, we will be combining years 7 and 8 to form a bubble and years 9 and 10 to form another bubble. This means that we can revert to having break and lunch at the same time for everyone albeit in separate areas. Years 7 and 8 will use 'Café Dunstan's' (aka the gym) as their lunch room and years 9 and 10 will use the canteen. The two bubbles will have separate out door spaces with years 7 and 8 using



the lower courts and the covered seating area while years 9 and 10 will use the upper courts and the memorial garden seating area. Break time will be from 10.40 – 11 and Lunchtime will be from 12.40 – 1.05.

Students will be advised of the routes to follow to and from their designated areas and will have an assembly on the first day of next term to ensure it is clear for all.

We have made the decision to allocate teachers as tutors to each class in the school. Doing this means that each student will start the day with the same teacher almost every day so that students have someone to check in with on a regular basis.

Whilst we have been very accommodating in terms of uniform and attendance during this dreadful year, we now need to reset our standards and remind everyone of our expectations. Please ensure that your child is in the correct uniform as of Monday 7th June; if you are struggling to purchase uniform, please let us know – we will order on your behalf and invoice you.

As part of our uniform policy there are no facial piercings allowed nor any jewellery other than a watch and stud earrings. Students are due on site by 8.45 so that they are in their classrooms ready for the official start of the day at 8.50. It is vital that all students are punctual to school and that they have a reading book and the correct equipment with them. The rules followed in school are very much 'training' for the adult world and so it is important that all students follow them – we appreciate your support in this. The less time we have to spend on dealing with infringements, the more time we have to ensure that we are focusing on our core business of teaching and learning; we know that we all want students to achieve the very best outcomes possible so the fewer distractions the better.

I look forward to seeing everyone on site by 8.45 on Monday 7th June and to continuing to build on the very positive relationship between school and home to ensure that our students have a successful and productive time in school.

Yours faithfully

Lynda Bevan
Headteacher