

Friday, 8th September 2023



Dear Parent/Carer

Re: Welcome Back

It's been fantastic to see all students and staff back into school across the week at the start of the new academic year - welcome back to everyone!

This week we have used the opportunity to update students on any new ways of working and remind them of expectations across our school community which ensure that every day is a success and enjoyable for every individual.

Staff have been extremely impressed with the positive attitude students have shown on their return and I am particularly proud of our new Year 7 group who have been amazing since their arrival. They have already set the bar high in terms of their work ethic and their confidence to get involved with all aspects of school life.

I am delighted to welcome the new members of our teaching team: Mr Williams (Maths), Mr Johnstone, Mr Keenlyside, Mr Pollock, Mr Gardner-Hart & Mr Kevern (Science), Mrs Robinson & Mr Marshall (English); Mrs Harvey & Mrs Lawrence (MFL), Mr Szwarc (D&T), and Mrs Loewnau (PE).

We also welcome Mrs Burrows as an additional member of the Pastoral Team and Mrs Green as our Welfare and Safeguarding Officer; Mrs Prescott and Mrs Betteridge also join our admin team.

The start of term is always a busy time, we will be providing regular updates as we embed some of our new structures and systems in the weeks ahead. Please find below further updates and information which we would ask that you discuss with your child.

- **Support for Students in School.** We have made some changes in school to ensure that we continue to meet all students needs and maximise the support for all families:
 - Mrs Lawson (Assistant Headteacher) will overview Key Stage 3 (Y7, 8 & 9),
 - Mr Farish (Assistant Headteacher) will overview Key Stage 4 (Y9, 10 & 11)
 - Mrs Bishell will overview our 6th form provision.

- Each year group will continue to have an allocated Head of Year as shown below who are there to support any academic questions or queries:
 - Year 7: Mrs Morgan ... catherine.morgan@oldburywells.com
 - Year 8: Mr Walker ... joe.walker@oldburywells.com
 - Year 9: Mr Cook ... jake.cook@oldburywells.com
 - Year 10: Mrs Bishell ... april.bishell@oldburywells.com
 - Year 11: Mr Cowburn ... terry.cowburn@oldburywells.com
 - 6th Form: Mrs Bishell ... april.bishell@oldburywells.com

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Heads of Year will have a particular focus on academic progress and supporting students to be actively involved with our Personal Development work and wider curriculum enhancement program; their brief is to ensure that all students are maximising progress in all areas of their school life. Mr Smith will support our extra-curricular and enrichment program with Miss Silverstone leading some of the Personal Development activities from Year 10 onwards.

We also have team of Pastoral staff who are available to give day to day support and provide further intervention and support.

Pastoral Managers should be the first point of contact for parents highlighting a concern and are as follows:

- Mrs Burrows - KS3 Pastoral Manager (Y7, 8 & 9) amy.burrows@oldburywells.com
- Mrs Barlow - KS4 Pastoral Manager (Y10 &11) sarah.barlow@oldburywells.com
- Mrs Fyfe - 6th Form Pastoral Support Worker tracy.fyfe@oldburywells.com

The following Pastoral Support Workers will provide any additional support and intervention for students and families as required:

- Mrs Bridgwater – KS3 Pastoral Support Worker
- Mrs Goodison – KS4 Pastoral Support Worker
- Mrs Green - Welfare and Safeguarding Officer

As our new structures develop in we will continue to update all students and parents so everyone is confident about how our support teams link in school.

- **Uniform.** With the heat this week it has been challenging for everyone with regards to uniform and managing the need to relax expectations so that everyone is comfortable. Can I however remind parents that we have sent regular updates regarding school expectations which are clearly documented on the school website:

<https://www.oldburywells.com/parentguardian-information/uniform>

The larger majority of students have arrived back to school look extremely smart, however areas of focus such as inappropriate trainer style footwear, skirts which are of an appropriate length and multiple piercings have again been an issue for a minority of our students. We have been reminding students again this week of what our expectations are and will be contacting families directly following the weekend if any issues remain. Can I thank all families for working with us to ensure that our high standards are maintained.

- **School photos and filming.** On Thursday this week we had our photographer in school taking pictures of students in action for publicity materials. We are excited to welcome our filming team in next who will be working with a range of students to update our school video. This is a great opportunity for students to work with a team of professionals who will share experience and expertise.

Please be assured that although lots of pictures and footage may be taken, any materials used in final publications will be checked off against parental permissions.

As the week comes to a close, a thank you to everyone for the hard work over the first few days of the new term and wishing everyone the very best for the year ahead. I hope everyone has a good weekend where they can reflect on a positive start to the term; I look forward to welcoming everyone back on Monday for our first full week.

Yours faithfully



Lee Tristham
Headteacher