

Our ref: LTM/kmd/letter1

September 2024



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 remind students of our goals and aspirations for them during their time in school. To do this, in assemblies and in general discussion we have promoted the 'OWS Way'. These are the basic areas we ask students to promote when in school and are built around our values of **ASPIRE, ENJOY, ACHIEVE**.

A visual image and further information at the end of this letter highlights the key areas which we would ask you to talk to your child about to help support key messages in school and ensure all students make the very best progress in all aspects of school life.

We have been extremely impressed with the positive attitude students have shown on their return. A particular mention to our new Year 7 group who have been amazing during their initial few days; they have already set the bar high in terms of their work ethic and their confidence in getting involved with all aspects of school life.

I am delighted to welcome the new members of our teaching team: Mr Sarpal, Mr Lee, Miss Roberts (Science), Mr Hayward (Computing, IT & Business Studies) and Mr Watkins (PE)

We also welcome Mrs Andrews and Miss Blewitt (Lesson Support), Mrs Hocking, Mrs McGonigle, Mrs Jones, Mrs Sharkey (Teaching Assistants), alongside Mr Luke and Mrs Cartwright (Technician Support)

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 as outlined below:

- **Support for Students in School.** We have made some updates in school to clearly identify a Lower and Upper School Support Team who alongside Form Tutors will support all students.
 - Lower School Lead Team – Mrs Lawson (Assistant Headteacher)
 - Mr Smith – Head of Year 7 and Transition
 - Ms Barlow – Y7 Pastoral Manager

 - Mr Walker – Head of Year 8 & 9
 - Mrs Burrows – Y8 & 9 Pastoral Manager
 - Upper School Team & 6th Form – Mrs Bishell (Assistant Headteacher)
 - Mr Cowburn – Head of Year 10 & 11
 - Mrs Shakespeare – Y10 & 11 Pastoral Manager

Aspire | Enjoy | Achieve

Mrs Bridgwater, Mrs Goodison and Mr Lacroix will continue their work across the school providing additional support for identified students where required.

***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.*

***Pastoral Managers** should be the first point of contact for parents highlighting a concern and are available to give day to day support and provide further intervention and support for students who face any difficulties. Our **Pastoral Support Workers** will provide any additional support and intervention for students and families as required.*

- **Safeguarding.** Ms Barlow (Welfare and Safeguarding Officer) - first point of contact for any safeguarding related issues.
- **SENCO.** Mrs Morgan leads our SEND and Inclusion team.

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

- **Uniform.** The larger majority of students have looked amazing with regards to uniform on their return to school, thank you to parents for their support. Where issues have been identified letters have been sent home requesting adjustments over the weekend and outlining further responses next week where concerns continue.

A reminder that all information regarding uniform can be found on the school website: [Uniform Policy](#)

- **Mobile Phones.** A reminder that for students we are a mobile phone free site during the school day. Should any contact between and school be required during this time it should be via school reception.
- **School photos.** At this time of year we are actively taking photos and images across the school to update our website and other school materials. 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.

Finally, 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 new term and I look forward to welcoming everyone back on Monday for our first full week.

Yours sincerely



Lee Tristham
Headteacher

See next page for the 'OWS Way' diagram and details

The Oldbury Wells Way



ASPIRE

- ✓ **Be Ready to Learn** – Work hard, be on time, have everything you need, engage fully in your work and make the right choices.
- ✓ **Have a Positive attitude** – Believe in yourself at all times, look for new opportunities to shine and show courage in all you do.
- ✓ **Be a Critical Thinker** – Use your knowledge and understanding to think critically about issues and use reasoning to make informed decisions.
- ✓ **Be Self Reflective** – Be confident to talk about your learning in school, knowing your successes and what you need to do to improve.

ENJOY

- ✓ **Show Respect** – Engage positively with those around you, treating others fairly and except who they are.
- ✓ **Show Kindness** – Show care and consideration towards others and respect our school community, always look out for others giving support which makes a positive difference.
- ✓ **Celebrate Success** – Be a good role model and be proud of your own success and that of others.
- ✓ **Support and be safe in your community** – Make a positive difference in school and the wider community.

ACHIEVE

- ✓ **Be Resilient** – Stay focused at all times and never give in, don't be afraid to step out of your comfort zone and learn from the challenges you face.
- ✓ **Show Independence** – Develop the ability to have your own thoughts and feelings, to positively influence and resolve things for yourself.
- ✓ **Work well with Others** - Support others and be involved, actively engage with opportunities which help shape everyone's future.

- ✓ **Join in** – Look out for new opportunities, try new things, and find opportunities to work as a team.