



2 December 2022

Dear Parents and Carers

I would like to bring you up to date as I complete my first week in my interim Executive Headship at Huish Episcopi.

Firstly, I would like to say how much I have appreciated being welcomed by the very vast majority of students here at Huish Episcopi. I have been made to feel very welcome by the many 'Good morning's and 'Good afternoon's that are echoed back to me as I walk the corridors. It's been lovely to see so many smiles. I have also enjoyed students' company at break and lunchtime – they are a very friendly bunch and are happy to talk to me about their learning.

The senior leadership team and I have focused on behaviour this week and in particular unacceptable language and defiance to staff. I have had to issue exclusions where students have not been able to accept responsibility for or see the consequence of their actions. As we move through the next few weeks and more students understand the clear boundaries that have been put in place I expect to see this number diminish. We have also worked with staff to ensure that students receive a consistent start to each lesson with the aim to start lessons quickly and enable students to regularly retrieve important information.

I have also had a lot of positive news that I would like to share with you. 110 of our Year 11 cohort went to see Blood Brothers on Wednesday evening and we had a lot of positive comments from the Theatre staff about their impeccable behaviour. This bodes well for our Year 11 and Year 13 students who are off to Shepton Mallet Prison next week as part of their Psychology courses!

Mr Madge has hosted a series of assemblies this week on kindness and we are hoping you are able to help your son/daughter's tutor group to complete a box of food to be donated to the local Food Bank for individuals and families in need.

I have a few 'well done's that I would like to share. Firstly, to Jack Talbot who competed for Great Britain's American Football team in Austria last weekend. We also have six of our Year 13 students who have secured interviews at two of the most prestigious universities, Oxford and Cambridge. Subjects include Maths, Chemistry, German, Philosophy and Medicine. We will share more details of these remarkable achievements in the end of term newsletter.

This week we started to tighten our uniform expectations – thank you for your support in this matter. Putting the right uniform on every day ensures that your child has a regulated start to the day ahead. It also helps them be in the right mindset for school. It is a pleasure to see the vast majority of our students wearing their uniform smartly and with pride. As we want all of our students to be smart, the Academy's finance team are currently purchasing spare uniform so that we can address the small number of students who are wearing jeans and leggings to school. We will issue appropriate trousers to those students who are in receipt of the Pupil Premium, if this is required. We will also loan uniform to those students whose families are currently experiencing financial hardship. These changes will take place in January so that

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Principal: Mr C J Wade BSc Registered in England and Wales: 7341553 Registered Office as above.

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you have time to make any relevant changes or contact us for support. Please do not hesitate to contact your Head of House if we can help you.

As the Academy is undergoing a journey of improvement we do need some extra Staff INSET time to ensure that systems that are put in place are well understood by staff and all students have a consistently positive experience in their lessons. Thus, I have asked the Trust Board to enable us to have an extraordinary INSET Day on Wednesday 4th January. This means that Term 3 may start on Thursday 5th January 2023. We will write to you separately to confirm this change in date.

Lastly, following feedback from many of you, who expressed that you would rather meet when the Ofsted Report has been published, the Trust Board and I have decided to postpone the Open House until its publication date. Once the Report has been issued we will also be able to update you with the Regional Schools' Commissioner's long-term intentions for the school.

Thank you for taking the time to read my letter.

Yours faithfully

Miss Yates
Interim Executive Headteacher

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