

21 July 2023

Dear Parent(s) and Carer(s)

It is with a mixture of sadness and optimism that I compose this last letter to you. As you will be aware, I finish my time at Huish Episcopi Academy at the end of this term. I can honestly say I have grown to love and respect this community in my time amongst you and I will be sad to leave. The students, in particular, have welcomed me with genuine warmth and I thank them all for that.

This year has not been without professional challenges. There have been some difficult decisions to make in order to ensure strong behaviour and safety in corridors and classrooms, implement an exciting curriculum that is aspirational and builds towards an excellent future for our young people and initiate the process of staff development towards excellence. There is still much work to be done and we are not complacent. Nevertheless, I am proud of the strides we have made in these areas. We have also secured an experienced headteacher to continue Huish's journey, and with the Academy formally joining United Learning on 1st June this year, the school's future is assured, and past setbacks can be avoided.

Mrs. Boyes has requested that I emphasise the uniform guidelines for September. I ask you to carefully review the enclosed uniform pamphlet, as well as the additional insert about shoes. As previously communicated, Nike Air Force shoes are considered trainers and will contravene the uniform rules from September onwards. While the focus on uniform may seem arbitrary amidst our other efforts like behaviour, safety, leadership, and teaching, we stand by the importance of a proper uniform. It fosters pride in our institution, projects a strong communal identity, and reduces potential financial burdens on parents and students who may struggle with keeping up with the latest trends. It's challenging to ridicule someone's attire when it mirrors your own. I kindly ask for your ongoing support of the Academy in this regard.

It is impossible to make changes whilst pleasing everyone. I feel, on balance, that we have taken decisions that prioritise the welfare and learning of our students. The Academy is not only a safer and stronger place of learning, but also possesses the foundations to become truly great once more. I am confident that Huish Episcopi Academy will rapidly emerge as another flagship school for United Learning, reflecting my faith in you, the community we serve.

I wish you all the very best for the future.

Yours sincerely



Mr Parnell
Principal



**Respect
Ambition
Resilience**

Headteacher: Mr Nat Parnell

Huish Episcopi Academy is part of United Learning. United Learning comprises: UCST (Registered in England No: 2780748. Charity No. 1016538) and ULT (Registered in England No. 4439859. An Exempt Charity). Companies limited by guarantee. VAT number 834 8515 12. Registered address: United Learning, Worldwide House, Thorpe Wood, Peterborough, PE3 6SB.

Huish Episcopi
Academy
Wincanton Road
Langport
Somerset
TA10 9SS
t: 01458 250501
e: office@hea.ac.uk
w: huishepiscopi.net