



# John Port School

An Academy Trust

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20<sup>th</sup> July 2017

Dear Parent/guardian,

Thank you for your wishes of support for John Port over the last few days and also for sharing your concerns with me. I am joining the Academy in September as the Headteacher and look forward to working with you and the students. It is vitally important that we work together closely as a team to ensure John Port delivers for your children and it returns to its prior status as an outstanding school for the local community.

I have been working through the Ofsted report and spent time in the Academy to ensure that we focus on all areas to improve the education provided to the students. The following five points are the basis of the development plan and the detail behind these points will be shared following our first monitoring visit.

## Academy Development Plan

- To Secure robust and effective safeguarding arrangements that permeate everything the school does
- To provide strong and visible leadership at every level of the school
- To raise achievement throughout the school with a relentless focus on securing equity for all
- To provide high quality teaching in every classroom, every day, in every subject and for every child
- To secure high standards of behaviour, presentation and attendance so that students can achieve highly.

During the last week, I have received various concerns from parents and although in an ideal world I would like to meet individually, it is essential that I prioritise my time ensuring that changes and systems are in place for a successful start in September to secure the learning for all students. I would now like to address the actions I will have in place for September to assist in this rapid improvement.

## Safeguarding

All statutory requirements have now been met to ensure students are safe in the Academy. A new safeguarding team is in place for September.

## Communication

The policy in the Academy is that all enquiries and communications are replied to within two working days. This will be closely monitored. The email addresses for key staff are included with this letter. For pastoral issues please email the Pastoral Manager or Head of Year. Please email subject leaders if there is an issue in a particular subject area.

To improve communication and discussion around changes to the Academy we are introducing parent forum meetings next term. The focus and dates of these meeting will be shared via ParentMail and the website next term.

## Pastoral System

Although the house system has been a positive move for competitive events and charity work, communication and tracking of students behaviour and progress has suffered. The Academy will return to a Year team based structure in September with the following leads. House communities remain for competitive purposes and the house lanyards will remain.

*'Big smiles, exciting challenges, bright futures'*

Company Number 7564777

	Head of Year	Pastoral Manager
Year 7	Mr A Stephenson	Mrs T Dare
Year 8	Miss K Donald-Godfrey	Mrs K Kniveton
Year 9	Mr D Barry	Mrs V Davies
Year 10	Mr L Bottrill	Mrs M Pemberton
Year 11	Mrs R Lowndes	Mr N Collier
Year 12/13	Director of 6th Form	Mr G Allt
	Deputy Director of 6th Form	Mrs C Randall

### **Supply Staff**

All teaching posts are filled by qualified teachers for September. We are also fortunate to have extra staffing from Spencer Academy Trust to support our capacity in the teaching team.

### **Homework**

Homework will be set by all staff for all students next year. This is a basic requirement and will be monitored closely. For Key Stage 3 students, Homework will be set at a rate that is approximately equivalent to one session per week for each subject of approximately thirty minutes in duration. This will increase in KS4. A new policy will be in place in the new term.

### **Monitoring**

The Academy will be monitored approximately every eight weeks by Ofsted. There will be daily monitoring by myself and the Spencer Academy Trust with Safeguarding and Quality of teaching being the main focus in September. The response from Ofsted monitoring will be shared on the website after each visit.

### **Uniform**

We have no intentions of changing the current uniform, however I am now allowing girls to wear black pleated skirts to the knee, as they are unable to ride bikes in the straight skirts (Straight skirts are still acceptable). All skirts should be to the knee and skirts above this level will not be acceptable in September. (Suppliers will advise on acceptable length and have the pleated skirts available). Please ensure all students are wearing the correct uniform in September to enable the staff to focus on teaching and learning.

I hope you all have a wonderful and safe summer and look forward to joining your community in September. John Port has huge potential and I am positive that together we can move it forward quickly.

Yours sincerely,



Karen Squire  
Headteacher