



Osborne School

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7 September 2016

Dear Parents and Carers

A very warm welcome back to the start of the academic year 2016 and a very warm welcome to all our new parents. I hope that you have all had a good summer holidays with lots of fun and rest!

You will be pleased to hear that pupils have enjoyed their first day back spending time with their class teacher, attending assembly and then attending their lessons in the afternoon as per the timetable.

For the last two days the staff have been in training, learning about the mental health standards and how to implement these into the school to ensure that your young people stay mentally healthy in order for them to learn effectively. We have also been looking at our new assessment system which we will be implementing as of today in line with the government initiative to assess pupils without national curriculum levels. I will be running a workshop for parents in the very near future to give you further information.

As you know in April this year our residential unit came to a close to allow us to develop a provision which would benefit more young people aged 16-19. Unfortunately the plan to open the new building on Monday has been delayed for various reasons and will now not open until after half term. However the 40 young people who will be attending the unit this year will still be returning to school on Monday and will be accommodated in the main school. Whilst we will be a little pushed for space we will still be running the curriculum and preparing to move into the new building. Whilst I know this is a little disappointing what I can tell you is that the building is looking fabulous and the facilities are fresh, vibrant and will certainly be worth the wait.

Communication is key to any relationship and I am very keen to ensure that as a school our communication with parents is of the highest quality. The best way to find out what is going on in school and in your young person's class is via the website. Periodically I will post news about whole school events, training and initiatives and on a half termly basis teachers will publish the class's curriculum information. Classes will also be posting their own blogs so you will be able to see what your young person is up to on a very regular basis. All other key information is also available on the website, for example important dates, policies etc. However this doesn't take away the face to face contact that I am also very keen to develop; we will continue to run parent coffee mornings, annual meetings, parent consultations, open evening, futures evening and the various shows and displays, and of course you are welcome into school at any time. The best way is to contact school and book an appointment because as I am sure you can appreciate the staff are teaching 90% of the school day. Please do not hold onto any queries or concerns however big or small; we will always try to resolve the query in the best way possible.

That just leaves me to say once again a very warm welcome to this academic year and thank you for your continued support. Here's looking forward to an exciting and productive year. Don't forget to check the website!

Kind regards

Sonia O'Donnell
Headteacher



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