

6 December 2024

Dear Parents and Guardians,

I hope you are all well. I am writing to you with my reflections on my first week. My new colleagues have been very welcoming, and it has genuinely been a joy to meet your children. Many have come to say hello when I've been out and about at during lesson change over, break and lunch. I'm really enjoying getting to know them.

As I mentioned earlier this week my focuses are to work on school culture and school systems. I feel the school has some strengths and it's important to harness those but also there are some fundamental areas that need to improve. My expectations are high and to maintain a happy, safe learning environment there needs to be clear routines and processes, so that we can ensure teaching and learning is the priority and as effective as it should be. School culture is key to this, where every child understands we will not relent on our expectations but that will be done in a warm manner, where behaviour will be sanctioned and the child supported.

I also want to clarify, from my previous letter, that no decision has been made about joining a multi-academy trust as yet. There is a process for that, and all families will be consulted with in due course. Currently I am here to support the leadership of the school as a management partnership agreement between the school and Blackdown Education Partnership (BEP). Governors were working on entering a management partnership with the right multi academy trust since before the Ofsted inspection. Whilst we are still waiting for the Ofsted report to be published, it's important that the drive for improvement at THS continues at pace, and the management partnership with BEP will ensure that.

I am also writing to give you as much notice as possible that the Monday 6 January 2025 has been converted into a training day, meaning that students will return to school on Tuesday 7 January instead. This has been ratified by governors and will allow me to deliver some training required for the start of the Spring Term.

Additionally, school will close at 1pm on Friday 20 December 2024 for the Christmas break. Students who have free school meals will be able to collect a packed lunch from the Refectory either at break or between 12:45pm and 1pm.

Yours sincerely



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