

BAR LANE
OLD BASFORD
NOTTINGHAM
NG6 0HT

PRINCIPAL: CHRIS KEEN
T +44 (0)115 913 1338
E enquiries@ellisguilfordschool.org.uk
www.ellisguilfordschool.org.uk



**ELLIS
GUILFORD
SCHOOL**
*Creative
Education
Trust*

Thursday, 5th November 2020

Dear Parent/Carer,

From September 2020, the school has started to change direction: we are completely committed to making sure every child can learn and make progress, every member of the school, staff and pupils have high expectations and children are safe and happy.

During the first half term, we have worked hard to establish clear routines both for children and staff. To that end, pupils have responded very positively to the changes whilst in the classroom, teachers are also working hard to make sure learning allows our pupils to make good progress.

I am pleased that, even during difficult and challenging times due to COVID-19, the school did not have any supply teachers, which, last year, was a real concern to you.

During this half term, we are setting ourselves the same target- no supply- so that learning for your child can receive an education which is consistent and coherent. Where there is staff absence, we will use our own staff to deliver the lessons.

Promoting good behaviour remains a key priority for the school. Behaviour expectations are very clear. Overall, the vast majority of our pupils behave very well. I want to assure you that we are dealing with pupils who are challenged by our expectations. I also want to assure parents that any incident of inappropriate behaviour is taken seriously and we aim to deal with it promptly. This has meant that we have seen an increase in exclusions, but I know that parents and carers welcome and appreciate a school that insists on good behaviour.

We've appointed a new safeguarding team led - Mr J Williams. I have made sure that all staff received safeguarding training. Staff are highly visible on duty during breaktimes; all pupils have had a safeguarding virtual assembly and understand who to approach with a safeguarding concern. We will be completing a safeguarding review this half term with our Trust. Pupil safety is the single most importance in our school.



At the end of the term, we also made some changes to the leadership of the Pastoral team. I want to thank both Mr I Cook and Mr C Collington, both of whom have new responsibilities in the school, for their work as Head of Year 10 and Year 8 respectively. I am delighted to share with you new appointments to these posts. Mr G Webb (Head of PE) is the new Head of Year 8 and Ms L Esteal, Head of Year 10. We have appointed Ms K Horner as the new Head of PE.

In addition, I have noted that parents have been critical of communication within the school, often being frustrated by a lack of contact following a phone call. We have, therefore, appointed a new post in the school, a 'Parent Partner': this post will be responsible for taking calls, passing messages on to the right people, and making sure we respond in a timely way. I hope this post will support and improve communications.

We are at the very beginning of our journey in the school and we are excited about what can be achieved. We are, however, very keen to gain a view from parents and carers about the school, especially from September this year. Parent view is very important we value your feedback. This will allow us to making changes and take on board comments to support what we are doing.

I would, therefore, be grateful if you could take the time to complete this short questionnaire:

<https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=yu1GLt0A20uVy2z1Ys-7pH2-6u5i8EIOrHHwyrpta9FUMFRJOVE4TDIIUTYzWfK2RUVTMzNRR0U0Ry4u>

Please complete the form by Tuesday, 10th November 2020. I will report this to the School's Academy Improvement Board.

Although we are early in the term, your feedback about any improvements we've made already or areas for improvement will be greatly appreciated.

Yours sincerely,

Mr Chris Keen
Principal