



3<sup>rd</sup> July 2025

Good Evening Parents and Carers

I hope that you are enjoying the lovely weather we have been having this week – although in school it can often feel like it is more ‘enduring’ the heat, as our classrooms and school environment is not set up fantastically well for hot conditions.

Thank you for your support during this week with reminding your child of the importance of bringing a bottle of water to school and keeping hydrated – remembering to refill their water bottles during break and lunch and not at the end of those periods so that we minimise the impact of this hot weather on student learning. Also, by making sure they don’t over exert themselves and staying out of the direct sunshine where possible, as I have seen so many doing so well, this week already.

Teachers and staff have done an amazing job this week in continuing to focus on learning and their lessons despite the hot weather. I had a group of visitors to the school yesterday afternoon and despite it being period 5 at the end of a hot day, they were so impressed with the warm, welcoming and friendly way in which every student we met greeted me and the visitors and also how focused and positive the classrooms were.

During this week we have been exploring an adaption to the start of the school day with students lining up in year groups and ensuring that every student is set up for a successful start to the school day, with a consistent welcoming and calm start for all students. This is all about providing that and setting them up for success, with all the correct equipment for learning and uniform in place as quickly and effectively as possible. As with any change to a different way of doing things, we have carefully explained to students what we are doing, what is expected of them and most importantly why we are doing it. This is a great opportunity for Heads of Year to speak to the year group at the start of the day, create belonging, recognise and celebrate student success as well as motivate them for the day ahead. We are able to reiterate key messages and start the day in a calm and purposeful way enabling any child who arrives to school distressed or upset to be identified and supported quickly.

Our student, staff and your parental survey responses have repeatedly given feedback that transitions are points at which students feel less calm, safe and respected. The movement from lining up to walking to Tutor rooms and assemblies this week has been really calm, purposeful and positive, as a result of setting up for a positive start in this way.

As with any change for large groups of students and staff, the process of learning new ways of doing things, gathering feedback and responding to that feedback takes a little time. As was the case with the move to a single point of entry, introduction of SLANT, keeping left on corridors and the zoning of playgrounds, this will also take time and require us to maximise every opportunity to identify and address any issues. That is why we are exploring the introduction of this, before the summer break and learning from the process ready for September. Any feedback you have, is gratefully received in support of this.

My experience as a parent of two teenagers, has taught me that they can be a little sensationalist in describing things that happen in their school day. This week I have heard rumours of students being asked to stand in extreme heat for extended periods of time, on one leg, balancing while holding out equipment for checking in a militaristic parade... to be absolutely clear, this is not what we are doing. I just wanted to reassure you that first of all, what we are doing is rooted in supporting students having a consistent, calm and positive start to their day and getting to lessons and learning as quickly and effectively as possible and that this process, while initially taking a little time to learn, it is already becoming, a very quick and positive experience.

Finally, can I ask again that you take a moment to remind students crossing the road at the end of the school day to look at the road and not mobile phones and to cross between myself (you really can't miss me in the very hi-vis with my lollipop) and one of my deputies where we are providing a safe place to cross.

Thank you as ever for your ongoing support.

Kind regards

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'P Foster', with a long horizontal flourish underneath.

Mr P Foster

Headteacher