

1st July 2022

Dear Parents/Carers

New Head of Year

I would like to take this opportunity to formally introduce myself to you as from Tuesday 5th July, I will be the new Head of Year for your child and I will take them through until the end of Year 11. Originally from a performing arts education and mental health background, I have extensive experience from Airedale Academy, as well as other settings and a wide range of skills in pastoral care and safeguarding.

Key Stage 4 is a crucial period where young people develop the skills of independence, self-management and resilience, vital characteristics for adulthood. From Year 10, they have a streamlined curriculum and will focus on core areas of English, maths and science as well as chosen options. Over the next two years, they will make informed decisions as to future progression and I look forward to accompanying and supporting them on this exciting journey.

Attendance is a huge priority as students simply cannot learn and become exam ready if they are not in school. 100% attendance is a target for us all. Approximately too many students are finishing Year 9 in the persistently absent category which means their attendance is below the government expectation of 90%. This has to change as we move in to Key Stage 4. My goal is to work with all students and their families in a supportive manner whereby students are in school learning and I will make every effort to unpick barriers to school and improve attendance.

I led assembly with the year group this week and introduced my expectations to the students. I pride myself on the positive relationships I form with students, who are aware of my no-nonsense approach in terms of negative behaviour, as well as my focus on celebrating positives and achievement.

As a parent myself, I want to reassure you that I am here for your child and I will do whatever I can to ensure their progress, happiness and success, working in partnership with the students, and yourselves, and build a positive professional relationship which ultimately will enable them to maximise their potential.

I am very excited about working with this year group over the forthcoming year. They are a wonderful group of young people and I look forward to getting to know them.

Kind regards,

Mrs Charlotte Parker
Head of Year 9