

September 2019

Dear Parent/Carer

It has been a pleasure to welcome all our students and colleagues back after the summer break. Each and every person has returned with a spring in their step and there is a lovely atmosphere around our school.

A special mention has to go to our new Year 7 cohort – they arrived promptly, well prepared and immaculately presented on the first morning – thank you! Each and every Year 7 student has settled in extremely well – they are confident, polite and have certainly hit the ground running. On a personal level, a particular highlight for me this week was delivering the first assembly to Year 7 – upon entering the hall each and every student confidently addressed me saying ‘good morning!’ This really was a terrific way to start the day and said an awful lot about their positive approach to their new school.

I would like to publicly thank our site team. During the summer holidays, an enormous amount of building works have been completed. A Science room has been refurbished, new specialist teaching rooms have been created in English, Maths and Art and our ‘Pastoral Hub’ has been relocated to a much more central and appropriate location. Furthermore, Mr Jones our English/Media specialist has also moved into our newly refurbished ‘Ian Murray Media Suite’ – a fantastic purpose built facility which has been made possible following the generous donations we received following Ian’s sad passing – it really is a super tribute to a superb teacher and friend! A new heating system has been installed so we should stay warm during the winter and over 250 new LED lights have been fitted!

During my assemblies this week, I have been reminding all of our students about our core values here at Gillingham School. I explain our absolute commitment to ‘developing resilient, adaptable and resourceful learners’. We encourage all of our students to not give up, to take risks with their learning and to learn from their mistakes. It is important for us all to recognise and understand both success and failure: I have enjoyed exploring these concepts through an analogy with the England cricket team this summer!

Since joining our school, I have been struck by the strength of our community and the level of mutual respect and trust that permeates across our school. This does not happen by accident. Students demonstrate their pride in their school by arriving each day well prepared, with a smart uniform and a positive attitude towards all elements of school life. Similarly, I have reminded students about our three most important yet straightforward expectations that exist to benefit our whole community. They are:

- We are ambitious, take pride in our school and our learning is never disrupted
- We treat everyone with kindness and respect
- We have the right to feel safe and happy

Ahead of us lies another particularly busy term: the range of opportunities on offer is huge and I look forward to celebrating another successful term.



Mr Nicholson
Headteacher