



## Ambition, Altruism, Achievement

Incorporating: Codsall Community High School, Bilbrook CE Middle School & Perton Middle School  
Executive Headteacher: Mr A Harding BA (Hons) NPQH



Dear Parents/Carers,

I am delighted to welcome you to the new term and hope that you have been able to enjoy some rest and family time during the summer. We hope that students are feeling ready for the new term and all the opportunities it will bring; we are very much looking forward to welcoming them back in to school and integrating our new students in to our Perton Middle School family.

There have been several improvements to the school buildings over the summer break which I am sure the children will value as they have made quite a difference to the aesthetics of the school which was looking a little tired. We also welcome four new members of staff: Mrs Williams who will teach a range of subjects largely in KS2, Ms Fellows who will teach Maths and PE, Mrs Jessel who will teach Music and Mr Jones who will have a Y8 Form and will deliver Wellbeing Sessions. As you will be aware, Mr Pritchard, our former Drama teacher, has taken up a promotion at another school and we are currently seeking to appoint a new drama specialist to fill this post. Until we are able to appoint the right candidate, we will offer Wellbeing sessions in place of Drama. These lessons will focus on physical and mental wellbeing and on many of the skills needed for drama: team work, self-confidence, Oracy and independent thinking. On the day when your child has this session, we would ask that they wear their PE kit to school.

Last year, we fully adopted the White Rose Maths scheme in to our curriculum. This is a well-recognised scheme, used by many local schools. For it to have its full impact in KS2, however, it was felt that more teaching time needed to be dedicated to its implementation. To facilitate this, we have had to make some changes to our KS2 curriculum. This means that Music/Computing and DT/Art will be paired together to run on a rolling programme, alternating for half a term each. We are very keen that students should experience a broad and balanced curriculum, so we will monitor the impact of this change carefully on both Maths and these foundation subjects.

Our pastoral system will run with increased emphasis on links with your child's Form Tutor. If you have any worries regarding academic, social or emotional aspects, please contact your child's Form Tutor in the first instance and they will seek to alleviate your concerns as quickly as possible. They will also build a picture of these concerns and any measures implemented to resolve them which will be very helpful if we need to escalate them further. At this point, Mr Rowley, as our Pastoral Manager, will become involved and he will share any concerns with our Inclusion Team to ensure that the right support is in place as needed. We really value our links with home and Form Tutors will check in with families termly to discuss how your child is getting on. All evidence points to the fact that a strong relationship between school and home leads to a more settled and productive time in school for the student which is of course our shared aim. Form tutors can be contacted via email or you can call reception who will pass on a message for Tutors to return your call.

There have been several improvements to the school buildings over the summer break which I am sure the children will value as they have made quite a difference to the aesthetics of the school which was looking a little tired. The vast majority of the windows have now been replaced and we have updated and expanded a set of our toilets, so that they now have cubicles with floor to ceiling doors and open plan handwashing areas. In addition, work has been done to improve the appearance of outside areas, including benches and large planters. We hope to address those at the very front of the school soon which will really help to improve our appearance.

### Codsall Community High School

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I communicated with parents and carers towards the end of the summer term regarding equipment and uniform. Students are expected to have their own equipment each day: pen, pencil, ruler, rubber and Knowledge Bank. We believe that children should arrive ready to learn and having equipment ready, minimising learning disruption, teaches them the value of being organised and taking responsibility for this and their belongings. The cost to school of providing and replacing equipment has also become unsustainable.

Our uniform requirements are very clear and were also shared at the end of last term. We thank you for upholding the standards we set out. Increasingly, we see items in the news about students who have contravened their school's requirements. We know that finding items of clothing to fit our requirements can be difficult and even some of our major stores provide uniform that does not meet our policy, however, we believe that school uniform is about creating equity amongst students and should not be seen as a fashion show in which some can compete more favourably than others. Any contraventions of our policy will be relayed to parents/carers at the earliest opportunity. This is not a task we enjoy as we understand that items have been purchased, often in error, which parents/carers will rectify quickly, but this matter can be contentious. If you require any assistance obtaining the correct items, we will do our best to help and we do keep spare, clean uniform in school if needed.

Those of you with children in years 6, 7 and 8 will know that we have experienced some issues with our texting system and the SIMS App that was activated to resolve the text problem. Unfortunately, this has not been as successful as we hoped so we have been reviewing other more reliable options, some of which have been trialled within the Partnership. As this is a costly investment, we need to ensure that the option we choose is the right one and we will be in touch shortly with an update. For new parents/carers, we apologise for the fact that we will be asking you to sign up to the SIMS app initially and then a different app soon afterwards, but as this is a costly service, we need to ensure that we find the right solution. In the meantime, we will post important information on the website, Facebook and the SIMS App, so please check regularly and call reception or email your child's form tutor if you need clarification. Staff are also available on the school gate in a morning and at the end of the school day and can be contacted via reception or email. Please talk to us if you have any questions or worries.

I look forward to working with you and your children over the coming year and thank you in advance for your support.



**Michelle Burrington**  
**Headteacher**