



The Clarendon Academy

Aspire to Excellence

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25th May 2017

Dear Parents and Carers

I am delighted to be writing to you as the returning Headteacher of Clarendon Academy.

These are exciting times for Clarendon. By the end of June we should know who our new sponsor is and which Multi Academy Trust we will be joining. I have clear views on the best way forward for the school and these have been communicated to the Department For Education as requested from them. The new sponsor must be passionate about our community and have the very highest values and aspirations for Clarendon.

In June I will be at Clarendon on Mondays, Thursdays and Fridays as I complete the headship transition at the school I have been leading this year. I take up post full-time on **1st July**, supported by Mrs Jordan who, as she approaches retirement this August, must be thanked by all of us for an outstanding contribution to this school over three decades. Such relentless commitment to the education of children and young people needs to be recognised. It is a tremendous record of work by an excellent professional.

I intend to use June and July to fully focus Clarendon on the values needed to grow into an outstanding school, the standards that will be demanded and the work ethic which will be needed by all in '**Team Clarendon**'. And 'demand' is the right word; there will be no excuses. Team Clarendon has to become '**outstanding**' because the children and young people, who are the beating heart of that team, need it. We live in a world which is changing fast and resilience, flexibility, high levels of skill, high levels of knowledge, compassion, independence, empathy, communication abilities – all of which add up to 'character' – are more important than ever in achieving a happy and healthy future. We must deliver this for all our students.

All staff had a presentation from me before Easter setting out the **demands** that I will make of myself and all who work at Clarendon. They all know that nothing less than excellence will be accepted. I have been really impressed by their response so far and, in the spirit of transparency, share with you below the message I gave:

"There are seven demands of teachers:

1 – **Expect and be part of highly visible leadership:** my senior team and I will visit lessons all of the time and expect to see excellence from staff and students.

2 – **Have relentless consistency:** all must perform to the same high standards and students will experience the same routines in all classrooms and tutor groups.

3 – **Deliver the eradication of low level disruption:** students will be taught clearly and quickly that you are either working and learning or you are off task. Any distracting behaviour will not be tolerated.

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4 – **Provide fair and consistent positive discipline:** students will know where they stand and what is expected of them. We will be firm but fair at all times. High expectations will be made, students will be rewarded for performing well, challenged if they do not. An updated behaviour policy will have **Zero Tolerance of Defiance, Zero Tolerance of Deviation.** The policy will demand that students comply with our values, rules and expectations. They exist because the best learning takes place in a highly disciplined – and in turn very calm, safe and pleasant – school environment.

5 – **Model a culture of very high expectation:** we all must believe in every child we teach. This is the whole point of everything I've written so far. All children have enormous potential. It is our duty to ensure they can realise it and develop the character to succeed through hard work and determination, inspired and supported by great teaching.

6 – **Ensure a culture of hard work by students:** Nearly every successful Olympian says their success is down to "hard work and training". Success in school is exactly the same. You learn by working hard and practicing and revising; at school and at home.

7 – Do the following, to the best of your ability, every day: **Plan, Teach Mark / Safeguard, Guide, Inspire** - the job of a teacher in six words.

Together, living and breathing these Seven Demands, Team Clarendon can deliver an outstanding school for our community."

I will communicate with you throughout Term 6: demands on ensuring our excellent uniform is worn to the highest standard, demands on attendance and punctuality, demands on preparation for the school day and completion of homework, demands on supporting the school in delivering outstanding behaviour. It is a team effort and you are an essential part of Team Clarendon. When I send you a '**Home – School Agreement**' to be signed in July, please read it very carefully - knowing that it has been written in the very best interests of your child. I anticipate and thank you for your full support, in return for the huge demands I will place upon the school so that we deliver for your child a safe, happy and successful education.

It's great to be back and I can't wait to lead Team Clarendon to 'outstanding' and, hopefully, keep it there for many years to come.

Yours sincerely



Mr M Stenton
Headteacher