

8th September 2023

Dear Parent/Carer,

A final update from me following a very successful start to the new term. This week has been a great opportunity for me to finally see the school in action.

I am delighted to report that the single break and lunch has allowed extended opportunities for students to socialise and eat their snacks and lunches without the need to hurry. In spite of the heat, students have enjoyed making full use of the outdoor spaces to play sport or simply relax. We will be sending out further information regarding our lunch time activity programme in due course.

On Tuesday morning the assembly message challenged the students to think and work hard in every lesson; asking the students to show ambition and pride in the learning. Over the last week, I have enjoyed spending time in lessons, sitting alongside the students and observing them being highly engaged learners.

You have also heard that this week we have launched our STEPs. The following is a message from Mr Jeremy Morland, Senior Assistant Headteacher and our strategic lead for the STEPs.

STEPS – Mr Jeremy Morland

During this past week, we have begun the implementation of our STEPs, copied below. These are designed to support our overall school ethos and embody the characteristics we are seeking to promote within all members of our school community.

We have been delighted by the ways in which staff and students alike have embraced the values within each of the STEPs: they are already becoming a key part of the language we are hearing around school as the characteristics and behaviours of each of the STEPs begins to be understood.

Above all else, in what has been the hottest week of the year, students have had to take **responsibility** for keeping themselves well hydrated and we hope that they realise that they have been treated with **respect** and **kindness** through the reduction of our usual uniform expectations.

From next week, there will be an explicit focus on **respect** and **pride** as we seek to embed these more deeply. This will be supported through tutor activities in STEPs time and our introduction of the STEPs cards.

STEP cards:

Respect

These cards are to be carried by all students and at all times, they provide us with an opportunity to reward students who are showing **respect** in their conduct around the school. Simple examples would include holding a door open for someone, or picking up a piece of litter. When this positive behaviour is observed by a member of staff, their card will be signed and they will be merited upon a full card of positives.

Pride

The card will also include a focus on **pride** and specifically, students wearing their uniform with pride. Any student who is blatantly not meeting our uniform expectations should expect to be challenged and be reminded about the need to demonstrate pride in their appearance with a note recorded on their card. A full side here will result in the sanction of a lunchtime detention.

Over time, the focus will change to different STEPs but at the start of the school year, these two particular STEPs are our chosen areas of focus. We would really appreciate you talking to your children about these cards and reinforcing the culture that we are trying to create here, as well as making sure they take **responsibility** for remembering to bring them to school each day!

Year 7 Photographs – Mr Steve Pritchard

The official Year 7 tutor photographs will be taken by the company that we use for all of our school photographs, during the morning of Thursday 14th September 2023. Details on how to order photographs and purchasing options will be sent out once these have been taken.

We wish you a good weekend and we look forward to welcoming our students back on Monday in full school uniform.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs Jo Lindley
Headteacher

