

EBR/SJS

21 January 2021

Dear Parents/Guardians,

I hope this letter finds you safe, well and looking ahead to a brighter year. As we approach the mid-way point for this half term, I aim to share the school's start to 2021: to update you on how we are maintaining high quality education whilst remaining COVID secure.

Firstly, I'd like to warmly welcome all our new families to the area and thank our new parents for the tremendous patience and support you have shown to ensure your children have settled in quickly.

I had the pleasure of covering multiple lessons during our first week back and was delighted to see how polite, hard working and positive our students can be. Similarly, when I walk around the school and support break duty, I am seeing a group of mature, well-rounded, kind individuals who are supporting each other during uncertain and unique times. We have had an excellent response to our focus on masks and I am sure we will have an excellent response to our focus on equipment too.

Secondly, I'd like to welcome Ms Tina Chilman who joins our teaching team as a teacher of Business Studies and ICT. Tina was a teacher at King's School in Germany and joins us from Avon Valley College in Wiltshire. She fully understands the military community and is committed to providing the best pastoral and academic care for our students.


All our staff are working incredibly hard this term, not only to maintain their high standards but to also keep everyone safe. You will have seen the NHS hailed as heroes in the media and this absolutely applies to our teaching, admin and support staff too. Working their way through multiple room and timetable changes, changing their strategies and resources, learning new online platforms, adhering to many health and safety guidelines and recently working in well ventilated rooms in a colder climate: they really do have your children's best interests at heart and I am both humbled and inspired every day by their incredible resilience, determination and collaborative mindset. I am sure you will join me in thanking all of them for their hard work in such relentless circumstances.

As we regularly update our risk assessment and review our measures to keep everyone safe, I am certain the school is COVID secure. Since the start of the term, two of our LEC admin staff have tested positive for COVID-19 and both are isolating at home. Thanks to our safety measures in place, quick communication and swift support from BFC, this did not impact on teaching and learning and only one close contact was identified who is also self-isolating at the moment. We continue to respond to concerns quickly and will inform parents as and when it is necessary to do so: if students, teaching and learning or school buildings are affected. As always, if you or your children feel ill or display COVID symptoms, please remain at home and do not come into school.

Finally, with the future of restrictions, examinations and travel unknown, I will share a quote from Erma Bombeck which has given me food for thought this week: "Worry is like a rocking chair: it gives you something to do but never gets you anywhere". I hope we continue to reassure and support our families in the coming weeks and look forward to meeting you all when it is safe to do so.

In the meantime, stay safe and look after each other.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Emma Bryson', written in a cursive style.

Emma Bryson
Headteacher