



1st November 2022

Dear Parents and Carers,

I write to you at the start of Term 2, reflecting on last term.

As a community, no doubt many are aware of an incident which took place in Buckingham, on Saturday 22nd October. For those who engage in social media, please be aware that there has inevitably been some factually incorrect information posted. Therefore, as a school, we encourage our community not to read these posts, and certainly not to add to them.

It would not be right for me to share any information with you about the incident, or about what actions have followed, but be reassured that the School is working with other agencies to further the safety of the youth and wider community of Buckingham. There is nothing about The Buckingham School that students and their families should worry about, as a result of this incident.

The safety of our students is paramount. Any student who does not feel safe – even if only in some small way – should always tell us. We have a first-class support team, which is staffed by trained professionals.

Last Term...

There were further developments in the quality of teaching and learning, with the vast majority of students exhibiting superb behaviours and as a result, making excellent progress. However, there have been occasions where things have not run as smoothly as we would have liked. We started on a high, reflecting on the School's best ever examination results. Staff, not least myself, were expecting to take standards yet higher, but those who work in education, or read about education, will be well aware that schools across the nation are having to adapt to new challenges, but without extra resources. These are often being attributed to younger students who arrived after a disrupted primary school education, due to Covid-19.

As Headteacher, I feel incredibly positive about the progress this School continues to make. However, honesty and reflection go a long way in maintaining community confidence. My message to our community is, "standards have not progressed in line with our high expectations, but we understand what the issues are and are addressing them".

A Behaviour and Relationships Policy review is underway, which will be launched in January 2023. We will be consulting all stakeholders on their views and current experiences of the School, before Christmas. In the meantime, we are putting a number of measures in place from 1st November, for those students who need further academic or emotional support.

In terms of our Culture, there was so much to celebrate last term and we finished on the high of *Show Racism the Red Card*. The levels of student participation were excellent and we feel very proud. In addition to this, our first *Friends of Buckingham School* event raised several hundred pounds in the last week of Term 1. Thank you to the Committee and to the staff who supported a great evening for Year 7 students.

Success for All. We unashamedly reiterate the School's Red Lines – we will not allow anyone to negatively affect the education and/or wellbeing of others.

Success for All. This is becoming a reality, as borne out by the standards being achieved in our classrooms every day.

With best wishes,



Mr A McGinnes

Headteacher

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