



THE BUCKINGHAM SCHOOL

A SPECIALIST SPORTS COLLEGE

London Road

Buckingham

MK18 1AT

Tel: 01280 812206

Fax: 01280 822525

Email: office@buckinghamsschool.org

Website: www.buckinghamsschool.com

Interim Headteacher: Mr A McGinnes

9 January 2018

Dear Parents/Carers,

A happy New Year to all, and welcome back to our students. I am delighted to be writing to you as the new Headteacher of The Buckingham School.

A change of Headteacher at any time of year is unsettling for a school, but the transition of the reins from Miss Wells to myself has been well-organised and I have been fortunate to be able to hit the ground running this term. I am highly mindful that a mid-year change will have concerned some; please be reassured that school life will continue as normal, particularly for the students in Years 11 and 13, facing public examinations this year.

For my part, I seek to reassure the community of my extensive experience and success as a teacher and leader. After graduating in Mathematics from the University of Exeter, I qualified as a teacher and I have spent the majority of my career to date in the independent sector. I have enjoyed a wide variety of roles, firstly teaching and leading in Mathematics, and I have served a senior leader for the last 17 years. The Buckingham School is my second post in the maintained sector and my third Headship.

I know that the community was rightly proud of the fact that The Buckingham School was judged as good by Ofsted in 2016. In practice, this means that the students are safe and well-cared for, the quality of education provided meets their needs well and every student - whatever their ethnicity, gender, background, ability or educational need – has an equal opportunity to succeed. The inspection was two years ago, but the school's strengths are still abundantly clear to fresh eyes like mine.

My vision is firstly a respect for the fact that children only get one chance to go to school, and their success impacts on the wider community the school serves. One size does not fit all, and we must use the resources at our disposal as best we can to ensure that every child has a first-class education, tailored to their individual needs as far as we can. My own passion for sport, music and the outdoors drive the high value that I place on opportunities to grow and develop as a rounded individual. We are as defined by our response to failure and setbacks as we are by success, and a school should provide extensive additional opportunities to build resilience – for example, sport, music, drama, Duke of Edinburgh, trips, visits and enrichment clubs.

Whether or not Ofsted decide to go with the views of many educators, and scrap the “outstanding” inspection rating for schools, the need to strive for constant improvement will never cease. My first impressions of The Buckingham School are, for example: examination results are good, but we will strive to make them even better; levels of engagement in lessons are really high, but could be higher still, especially amongst the older students; standards of dress (uniform) are good, but could be

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even better; behaviour is really good, but could be excellent; there is less litter than I have seen on school premises for many years, so there could be no litter at all. Crucially, the staff are wholly positive and keen to be able to do everything that they can to support your children. These things are easy to spot; my role as head is to lead the necessary underlying developments.

The Spring Term is short, a little more than eleven weeks, yet just as busy and important as any other. I will not be instigating wholesale changes for no good reason; on the other hand, I can tend to be impatient and unforgiving when things are not as good as they should be. The fact that (for the time-being at least) I am Interim Headteacher will not have any dampening effect on my ambition to drive the school forwards.

I look forward to meeting you in the coming months.

With best wishes,

Yours sincerely



Mr A McGinnes
Interim Headteacher

