

Friday 17 September 2021



THE BULWELL ACADEMY

Principal's Weekly



with Mr Nash

Aspire.

Work hard.

Be kind.

I'd like to open my first Principal's Weekly to you with a huge "Thank you" for the overwhelming support received from you as we embark on the next part of our exciting journey together at The Bulwell Academy. Your emails, phone calls and letters, geeing us all on from the side-lines is massively appreciated by us all here. This really does feel like a team effort in every sense.

Two weeks into the academic year, our students are settled and working extremely hard. Such was the confidence of their return, it's as if they had never left for Summer and observing their conduct in line-ups from the first whistle has been a real joy. Pristinely smart children who are well-equipped and with impeccable manners. They are a credit to you, and we are extremely proud of them.

Our staged return of year groups has made for a really positive start, allowing us to quickly re-establish our routines for success that is giving all students and staff the greatest opportunity to thrive from the outset. It is a testament to the commitment of everybody that our classrooms are disruption-free, uniform looks exquisite and students' engagement with learning is buzzing. It was a pleasure to be able to reward every student and staff member with an ice lolly last Friday during breaktime, it also helped cool us down as temperatures started to creep gently upwards.

We have launched our new praise strategy which supports our expectation of all children to aspire to be the greatest versions of themselves, work hard and to be kind. As such, teachers and support staff are rewarding students for their conduct and performance based on those three elements. In and between classes, students have the opportunity to receive 2 positive points for acts of aspiration, hard work and kindness whilst, of course, the coveted award of Star Student, carrying 5 positive points, is awarded to the standout learner every lesson, every subject, every day. We look forward to developing this system, with input from our staff and students, even further over the coming year.

We have welcomed 13 new colleagues to the dedicated team of teachers and support staff and their impact on our culture has been immensely positive and immediate. We are excited to continue our recruitment drive, searching for the most talented practitioners that the country has to offer. News of the achievements of the staff and students at The Bulwell Academy has already spread well beyond the borders of Nottinghamshire and we predict that we will rapidly become a beacon of recruitment as skilled practitioners and aspiring leaders seek their next career adventure. Exciting times ahead for our team and students.

Our priorities, driving a successful year ahead, remain unchanged for this year. We will be relentless in our mission to ensure that all our students attend school well and receive exemplary learning experiences in calm, compassionate and purposeful classrooms. Our commitment to improving the literacy levels of our students will be driven by our morning Tutor Time Reading Programme and Drop Everything And Read strategy, at the end of every day. We are quite literally bookending the school day to both support our students' ability to access our ambitious curriculum and to introduce them to the many wonders of reading for pleasure.

As we return to a much more traditional school experience, it has been fantastic to watch students keenly navigate the buildings as they transition between lessons. It's worth remembering that, for our Year 8 and Year 7 students, these two weeks represent their first opportunity to explore the whole Academy site. Supporting each other, and with staff on hand at all times to help, the number of students looking lost is decreasing by the day. Wonderfully, students more familiar with the site, are often seen leading a trail of our younger students to their correct destinations.

Finally, I want to thank all the brilliant staff at The Bulwell Academy who work tirelessly to ensure that our students have had a hugely positive and purposeful return to school. It's an absolute honour to serve such a committed team.

Wishing you all a fantastic weekend.