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**THE BULWELL  
ACADEMY**  
*Creative  
Education  
Trust*

18 April 2024

Dear Parents and Carers

## UNIFORM FEEDBACK & NEW STAFF UPDATE

Firstly, I want to thank you for supporting your child to wear our full school uniform at the beginning of this term.

As a parent said to me last term, *'You have a school uniform, so it should be worn'*. I am delighted to say many more pupils came correctly dressed for school this week.

For those that didn't, in the main, we have been able to provide an item of uniform temporarily for the day. As a reminder, we'd be grateful if parents checked that all items of school uniform were worn, to avoid any loaning of items. These include wearing the correct plain black footwear, as well as having a blazer rather than a hoodie.

The majority responded well to wearing the correct uniform and I thank you for your support in this. Only a matter of less than twelve months ago the Academy uniform was exceptionally good — we need to return to those times.

Secondly, during our Open Mornings and Parent Forum, parents made comments about the number of supply staff and I said we would report back to parents about how we were dealing with this. Whilst all schools have supply staff, we recognise that our Academy has had increased levels of turbulence over recent times, including staff changes. I can now report that we have made several key appointments in the Academy **commencing in September 2024:**

- **Mark Barlow, Director of Humanities**  
Mr Barlow is a Geography specialist, experienced in successfully leading Geography in a secondary school. Mr Barlow is also a successful Business teacher and will teach Business next year as a GCSE option subject.
- **Emma Illingworth, Teacher of Geography** (*returning to our Academy, having spent several months at another secondary school*)  
Mrs Illingworth is an excellent teacher of Humanities. We look forward to pupils benefiting from her expertise in the classroom. She will be well known by many pupils already.
- **Yvette Harvey, Director of Design and Art**  
Ms Harvey is a highly experienced teacher of Design, specialising in a range of subjects including textiles. Ms Harvey will be a welcome addition and key leader in the Academy.
- **Jenny Laing, Director of Science**  
Ms Laing has a 'Doctorate' in Science. She is not only an excellent teacher but brings a wealth of experience in leading a Science team.
- **Max Brackley, Teacher of Science**  
We are delighted that Mr Brackley has agreed to rejoin our school. I know that both pupils and parents will be delighted by this news.



We are all excited by these strong appointments. They all have a proven track record of success in secondary schools, and I know they can't wait to be part of the Bulwell family from September 2024. They will join other excellent colleagues, who are already part of the Bulwell team.

***Several new colleagues have joined us this term:***

- **Mrs Kate McCarthy, Assistant Principal for Pastoral Care**  
Mrs McCarthy has experience in a range of schools as a Head of Year, including both the private and public sector. She joins to strengthen our pastoral welfare team. She is determined to make a difference in our school, and we are confident that she will.
- **Ellis Freeman, Teacher of Art & Design**  
Miss Freeman will bring her extensive experience of Art Photography into the classroom. Art Photography is a highly specialised subject, one that pupils enjoy and succeed in, and we expect to see more teaching of this in the Academy.
- **Michael Henry, Year 7 Director of Achievement**  
Joining us from a local school, Mr Henry has experience in leading a year group. We know other schools would have wanted the opportunity to recruit him — he has excellent relationships with pupils and understands the importance of strong pastoral care. We are delighted he decided to join us.
- **Keisha Anderson** is our new **Teacher of Drama**, whose lessons are engaging and enjoyed by the pupils.
- **Finlay Hodgson** is a new **Teacher of Maths**. He is a second-year teacher with great maths subject knowledge, already working well in the classroom, supported by a strong maths team.

I am determined that pupils have the very best experiences in the classroom, and I will be committed to making sure we have the right staff and the best staff for our pupils. For the parents who quite rightly expressed their views and raised questions about the staffing in the Academy, I write to assure you of our continued actions to address staffing where we have any unforeseen 'gaps'.

Parents raised other matters during our Open Mornings and Parent Forum and we will keep all parents and carers updated on our progress across other aspects of school.

Your support is greatly appreciated.

Yours sincerely

**Chris Keen**  
**Executive Principal**