

SQUIRES AVENUE
BULWELL
NOTTINGHAM
NG6 8HG

EXECUTIVE PRINCIPAL: CHRIS KEEN
ACTING HEAD OF SCHOOL: MATT IRONS

T +44 (0)115 964 7640
E enquiries@bulwellacademy.org.uk
www.bulwellacademy.org.uk



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

13 September 2024

Pupils, Parents and Partnerships

Welcome back!

Over the course of the last week, we have welcomed all the pupils back into the Academy. No school is the same without its pupils and I have to say that they have made an outstanding start to the academic year. There is genuinely a lovely atmosphere around the Academy!

I would like to extend a particularly warm welcome to our new year 7s. What a start they have made! They have slotted seamlessly into the school community and have enriched our school. They are already living out the school values to Work Hard, Aspire and Be Kind. Our ambitious transition programme has ensured that we knew each one of the year 7 pupils before they entered the school on 2 September 2024. Knowing them allowed us to plan for their transition, particularly important to provide comfort to the pupils and indeed the parents. I am the parent of a year 7 pupil, so I know how you all felt on day 1!

A Therapeutic Approach to Supporting Pupils.

The New Era at The Bulwell Academy is well and truly under way, with calm corridors and purposeful classrooms. Our staff are being trained to think therapeutically and to 'Stop, Think Why?'. Why are children displaying certain behaviours? What may have contributed to the pupil's response? How can we think restoratively, rather than punitively with sanctions? And, how do I apply kindness. Thinking therapeutically does not mean accepting poor behaviour, indeed I make no apology for having extremely high expectations of pupils' behaviour in school. Therapeutic thinking sets out the needs for clear routines for behaviour and a behaviour curriculum that helps pupils to understand how to behave. I have invested in additional pastoral staffing so that the team have the time to build relationships, talk to pupils and deliver key interventions. This is vital!

Opportunities for Pupils

This week we will be hosting our enrichment fair, in which pupils will have the opportunity to sign up to a range of exciting extra-curricular activities. Learning does not simply take place in the classroom; wider culturally enriching opportunities are extremely important for personal growth and provides our pupils with the opportunity to have fun, develop skills and grow their confidence. It was the extra-curricular opportunities that I remember fondly from my time at school, many moons ago!



Our 'Pupil Leadership Programme' will give the pupils a say in how we run our school. I want pupils to invest in our school, be proud of our achievements and help to support our local community.

Recruitment

I am extremely pleased to announce that we have a full team of teaching staff. Not all schools will be able to boast such a thing! Last year we worked tirelessly to recruit the best teachers into our Academy. This is already having a profound effect on culture, teaching and learning across the school and will no doubt provide our year 11 pupils with a great opportunity to achieve an excellent set of outcomes in their GCSEs next summer.

Parents

This year we will continue to offer the opportunity for parents to sign up to our open mornings. The open mornings are an opportunity for parents to see our school in action, with children in classrooms and pupils at work. Few academies offer this opportunity, but I feel passionately that we need to build relationships with parents based on trust, respect, and kindness. We are a school 'In the Bulwell community, for the Bulwell community', and you, the parents, are going to play an important role in our future.

Building The Bulwell Academy for the Future

Over the course of the next few weeks, I will be embarking on a range of visits to our feeder primary schools as I look to 'build the school for the future'. I will be meeting year 6 pupils and their parents to talk through what the school now looks like, feels like, and can offer the next generation of Bulwell Academy pupils.

In addition, we are now an active member of the 'One Vision' partnership, formally 'Bulwell Vision'. The partnership brings together a range of local organisations including the Bulwell Forest Gardens and The Toy Library to look at how we can help Bulwell to become a thriving community. We plan to be an active partner in our community.

Finally, can I take the opportunity to thank you, the parents, for your support at the start of the academic year.

Welcome to a new and exciting academic year at The Bulwell Academy!

Your sincerely

Mr Irons
Head of School