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**Principal:** Jennifer Giovannelli

6th September 2024

## **Welcome Back to the New School Year**

Dear all

I would like to extend a warm welcome back to you and your children as we start the new academic year. It has been fantastic to see our students back in school. As always, this time of year is particularly busy as children settle into new routines and familiarise themselves with all that a new school year entails.

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## **New Staff and Vision for the Year**

We are delighted to welcome a significant number of new staff members this year. Each of them has been carefully selected because they align with our school's vision of fostering inclusion and igniting brilliance.

We start this year therefore in a strong position, with all staff fully committed to our central belief that *children do well if they can*. We are unapologetic in promoting this ethos and culture, and it has already had a noticeable, positive impact on the start of the school year.

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## **Summer Updates**

Several updates have taken place over the summer, especially around the support we are now able to offer all children. Additionally, we've made some adaptations to the building to further enhance the learning environment.

I understand it is a busy time, so I'll keep this letter brief. Over the next few weeks, I will share more details on these updates, and we will also be releasing a video tour so you can see the changes firsthand.

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## **Communication is Key**

My main message is this: please get in touch if you need support. As I mentioned to Year 7 parents earlier this week, children often mask their struggles at school. We encourage you to reach out if your child has encountered any difficulties during this first week back.

Over the next two weeks, our primary focus is to ensure that every child feels safe, happy, and like they truly belong. This foundation is key to fostering pride in how they are settling in and responding to the challenges of the new year.

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## **Upcoming Events and Dates for Your Diary**

- **Meet the Tutor Evening – Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> September:** This event is open to all year groups and provides a great opportunity to meet your child's tutor and discuss how they are settling in. The tutor is a key person in your child's school life, so we encourage you to attend if possible.
  - **School Photos – Wednesday, 11<sup>th</sup> September:** Many students have asked me to inform you so they can prepare! As a parent of three daughters, I understand how important this day can be for some. For some children, school photo day can be a source of anxiety. If you feel your child may need extra support, please do not hesitate to inform their form tutor.
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## **PE Kit and Uniform Updates**

- **PE Kit:** Starting this year, students should come to school in their PE kit on days when they have PE or dance lessons, as both are practical sessions.
  - **Uniform:** The Uniform Boot Room will be open from Monday. We've spoken with students about any necessary adjustments to their uniform, and from Monday, we expect all students to be in correct uniform. If your child has specific sensory needs that require adjustments, please discuss these with the school and we will be more than happy to work with you to ensure this is not a barrier for children.
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Wishing you all a lovely weekend.

Mrs Giovanelli