

Ref: LH/MLN

2 September 2019.

Dear Parents / Carers,

I wanted to write to welcome you all back to Holyrood Academy at the start of the new academic year and to give you a little bit more information about me; the Trust which will be running the school; and the plans for appointing a new Headteacher.

As of September 1st Holyrood Academy, along with its partner school Axe Valley Academy became members of Uffculme Academy Trust (UAT). We are a small Trust with two other schools: Uffculme Secondary and Uffculme Primary. Many of you will already know that we have been working closely with Holyrood and Axe over the last 12 months to manage the transition into UAT.

Up until last year, I was the Headteacher of Uffculme School and the Executive Head of Uffculme Primary School. I have been a Headteacher for 11 years and before that I was a Deputy Headteacher in Taunton. I believe that schools should be safe, happy places where academic achievement, enrichment and personal development are all valued and important. We believe that the success of a school – and therefore its students – rests on having a strong culture with good behaviour as standard, positive relationships between staff and students and an emphasis on working hard, joining in and being kind. I am pleased to say that I have seen for myself all of this in evidence at Holyrood.

In fact, I have thoroughly enjoyed working alongside the staff and students of Holyrood over the last year and am very much looking forward to getting to know the school and the community a bit better as I take on the interim Headship. I am also looking forward to meeting you and hearing your ideas about the school: what we do well; and what we could do better.

In terms of the leadership of the school, I will be Headteacher until a replacement for Mr Collins is appointed. We have already advertised and expect to interview at the end of this month. A permanent Headteacher should be in place for January.

Finally, I just wanted to remind you of some of the changes that are in place for this school year. Mornings will now begin with a tutorial or assembly instead of these taking place in the afternoon. These are really important as they give tutors a chance to check on the wellbeing of students and ensure that everyone is set up for the school day. This means that lunch will be slightly later than previously and students will go straight from lunch into their final lesson of the day.

/continued

Address
Zembard Lane
Chard, Somerset
TA20 1JL

Contact
tel: 01460 260100
fax: 01460 260149

Email
sch.517@educ.
somerset.gov.uk

Web
www.holyrood
academy.com

CEO/Acting Headteacher

Lorraine Heath
B.Ed, OBE

Senior Deputy Head

Sam Davison
BA Hons, MA

Deputy Head

Claire Berry
BA

Deputy Head

Dave MacCormick
B.Sc Hons, M.Ed

Business Manager

Tina Coles
DSBM

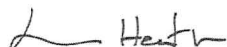


Another important change is that students will not be allowed to use their mobile phones at all during the school day. They must be switched off and in bags at all times. Only students in the Sixth Form will be allowed to use mobiles. If you need to get hold of your child during the school day, please contact reception who will ensure that the message is passed on. This decision was made in response to overwhelming research about the impact of mobile phones on young people's health and wellbeing and their potential to undermine the development of a positive culture in schools.

A letter was sent out just before the summer with a reminder of the school uniform policy which I hope you all received. We are particularly keen that students do not return with short stretchy tube skirts or skin tight trousers.

Thank you in advance for your continued support of Holyrood Academy. I firmly believe that when schools and parents work in partnership together, children thrive and are successful. I look forward to meeting all of your children when they return to school on Wednesday (Years 7 and 12) or Thursday for the rest of the school.

Yours sincerely,



Lorraine Heath
Headteacher
Holyrood academy
CEO
Uffculme Academy Trust