



GCA Parent/Carer Briefing

Thursday 16th July 2020

Well, what can I say? What a 4 months it has been, and what an extraordinary effort from team GCA! Congratulations to everyone in the team for making a success of a really difficult situation: GCA staff – all of them – for their resilience and endeavour and commitment; you guys, the parents, for your diplomacy, fortitude and pragmatism; and most especially, the children – all I can say is wow! What amazing children we have – just stunning!

We are, as is the natural order of things, losing some of our amazing staff this summer, and I know you will join with me in thanking them for everything they have done for the school and for our children – in some cases over a number of generations. We say a very, very fond farewell to:

- Mr Holliday – Deputy Head
- Mrs Morgan – Assistant Head
- Mrs Beesley – Reprographics Technician
- Mrs Gornall – Study Centre Manager
- Mrs McGuigan – Teaching Assistant
- Mrs Moxham – Teaching Assistant

I have finalised the arrangements for the first week back in September which are designed to try to make sure that our children are confident and comfortable returning, while establishing key routines as quickly as possible. The plan for the week is:

- Monday 31st August – Bank Holiday
- Tuesday 1st September – Inset – staff training
- Wednesday 2nd September - Year 7 only return.
- Thursday 3rd September - Year 11 and Year 8 return
- Friday 4th September - Year 10 and Year 9 return

A member of SLT will be on duty to direct children to the correct zones on arrival, and I intend to produce some quick guidance videos which will be sent out towards the end of the summer to help children to visualise what's going to happen.

And finally (for now), thank you so much for all the messages of support which have come in over recent weeks, and especially this week, which are a great source of strength for everyone here. I really look forward to children returning in September, and a return to a version of normal which won't be without it's frustrations and compromises, but we've proven over the last 4 months that team GCA is invincible and we'll make it fantastic, together.

Best of wishes to you all, have a lovely, safe, summer

Mr Ashcroft
Headteacher