

Tuesday 10th September 2024

Dear Parents and Carers,

It is with pleasure that I introduce myself to you as the Head of School.

I joined Birkenhead Park School as Director for School Improvement in 2022, having been Head of School at a high school in Runcorn. I started my career teaching mathematics at a school in Liverpool, and will be teaching mathematics in Year 11 this year.

I have worked closely with the senior leadership team here at BPS for almost two years, and we have made significant and positive changes, and this will continue. BPS is a fantastic school. Our students are polite, well-mannered, and keen to do well. I am looking forward to working with you all, to support your child to do the very best that they can at BPS.

Our school has made significant progress in recent years and this was recognised by Ofsted in November 2023, who praised us for our *'rapid journey of self-improvement'*. There is much in the report to be proud of but, for me, Ofsted's recognition of the students' attitude to learning is the best, because it reflects what I see in the classrooms every day:

'Pupils are growing ever more proud to attend Birkenhead Park School... Pupils are respectful, follow the rules diligently and apply themselves in class...Pupils have responded positively to the school's higher expectations. They behave well and are developing strong learning habits.'

The evidence is very clear that when students attend our school, they thrive in terms of their learning and that is why I call on all parents and carers to support us in our drive for 100% attendance. A child's time at secondary school is a five year journey and it is critical that all our students are all in every day, and all on time. Every day and every lesson counts.

To put this in context; a student who is only in school for 90% of the time misses one whole month of teaching, which is the same as 120 lessons each year. This missed learning will have a negative impact on their GCSE results which, in turn, will limit the choices they have at age 16. Attendance is everything! If our students are in school learning, they will have success in their GCSEs. This means that they will have the chance to go on to college, and then to university or to good apprenticeships and jobs.

The staff at Birkenhead Park School are exceptional. They are hardworking and totally committed to providing the best teaching and pastoral support for your child. We have a wide variety of clubs available for our students; we have fantastic careers support and enrichment trips.

Most important of all though, is the teaching and the significant improvement in examination results over the past 2 years. This is a result of our combined efforts, as parents and educators, in ensuring all the students get into school every day so that they can get the benefit of the fantastic teaching.

This is an exciting time for BPS and I look forward to meeting you all and working with you to secure the best academic outcomes for your child.

Kind regards,

Mrs N McNamee

Head of School