



WHITELANDS ACADEMY

Hexham Road
Bicester | OX26 1AY
T: 01869 716996
www.whitelandsacademy.org

15th September 2023

Dear Parents / Carers,

A very warm welcome back to all of our students at Whitelands Academy. We have been extremely proud of how well the students have adjusted back into school life. Our year 7 cohort have demonstrated ambition, resilience and teamwork in their first week where they have supported each other to settle quickly into secondary school routines. They are an asset to the school, and I look forward to seeing them flourish over this half term.

This term we welcome our New Senior Leadership Team to the school:

Ms Bertie Lyall – Vice Principal Pastoral

I am delighted to have joined the Whitelands Academy team as Vice Principal Pastoral. This is the fifth school that I have worked at and Whitelands is so special, it already feels like home. My role oversees behaviour, rewards, safeguarding and standards within the school. This year I will be teaching Business GCSE to year 10 and RSHE to years 7 and 8 which is a great way for me to get to know lots of students straight away.

I am passionate about every student finding an element of school they love; whether that be a favourite subject, an extra-curricular activity, or an opportunity they have been given which helps them build their confidence, I want to help each and every student to unlock their full potential. I will focus on developing our House systems and student leadership opportunities to prepare them for adulthood.

I have high expectations of all students at Whitelands Academy. They are exceptional and I will always ask them for their best. Bringing out the best in your children is the most rewarding part of my role and I look forward to working with you this year.

Mr Freddie Forder – Vice Principal Academic

It has been a real pleasure to start here at Whitelands Academy and to be part of the journey in continuing to grow a fantastic school, which already has a lot to be proud of. Throughout my career I have taught in a range of settings, including East London, South London, Buckinghamshire and Oxfordshire, giving me a range of experience which I am delighted to bring here.

As the new Vice Principal Academic, I have responsibility for our school curriculum and what happens in the classroom. I want to make sure that your children have the most academically rigorous experience of school, where they are able to reach their full potential in a supportive and caring environment.

This is a really exciting time for the school, and I am really looking forward to working with you to give your children the best possible school experience here at Whitelands Academy.

Ms Samantha Walkley – Assistant Principal, SENCO

I am really looking forward to working with you and your child; getting to know your child's strengths and how to support them effectively so that they can be the best version of themselves that they can be.

I have taught a range of key stages for the past 25 years, been a SENDCO for the past 8 years and have recently completed my MA in Specialist Education. I have a real passion for inclusive education. All students can achieve with the right attitude, support network and high-quality teaching.

I am proud to be part of the Whitelands Academy Senior Leadership team on this exciting new chapter in my career.

Thank you for your continued support of Whitelands Academy.

Yours faithfully,

C. Edwards

Mrs Clair Edwards
Principal