



January 2020

Dear Parents/Carers

**Re: Headteacher Letter – ‘New steps, new opportunities’**

Happy New Year and welcome to 2020! Much like the start of any academic year, the start of the calendar year offers a wealth of opportunity for new and exciting endeavours. Some will be making, and hopefully sticking to, New Year resolutions. Some will be just eager to get on with the next stage, mindful of the challenges that the New Year will bring.

As the new term gets underway, there are a number of exciting developments in the life of our school to highlight. The Chartered College of Teaching has recently accredited our Teaching School, The Lion Alliance, with the opportunity to deliver the Chartered Teacher Programme by Royal Charter. We are now one of ten providers nationwide licensed to deliver this programme, which will lead to colleagues being awarded the post nominal ‘CTeach’ on completion of the course. This is an exciting opportunity for teachers across the West Midlands, as we seek to recruit forty teachers onto the course by March, thus underpinning the quality of CPD in the profession through this internationally acclaimed teacher status.

We have started our next phase of construction work on site. Diggers are currently making improvements to the site’s drainage systems and we have specialist contractors improving our security and safety with more CCTV cameras and a remodelling of the front drive area of the school. Up to February half term, we will be constructing a new on-site café, called ‘Café6’ for our Sixth form to use, located near T block. This will give them their own eating space and provide a different environment in which to also study in a more university style self-study environment. Towards the end of the academic year, we will also be doubling the size of the Sixth Form block as we add an extra floor onto it. Ultimately, there will be four different areas for Sixth Formers to use for study in a variety of ways.

I have high expectations for all of our students as they approach their external examinations in a few months’ time. It was encouraging to spend a couple of days at the start of the year with all staff, and some from across the MAT, as we focus all our efforts on keeping student learning at the centre of all we do. High expectations in the classroom are underpinned by high expectations of punctuality to lessons and school. We enjoy a great deal of support from parents in ensuring students are in full school uniform each day and would ask for your support in reminding students that trainers are now not allowed anywhere on site, skirts should not be rolled up and blazers should always be worn.

Yours faithfully,

Mr C Bishop  
Headteacher