



31 October 2022

Dear Parents/Carers,

Re: 'The value of stability'

With being only half a term into this academic school year, we have witnessed so much change across our country in this short period of time. Last month, I referred to the impact the late Queen's life had had on British life; the sense of permanency and stability she brought.

Since then, the country has gone through some testing times, both politically and financially. At one stage, there was a daily sense of drama in the news that made it hard to keep up with the rapidly evolving landscape around us. I must admit to giving up trying to keep track of it all. The fact that the education sector is now on its fifth Secretary of State in a year, makes it hard to take anything said as lasting when the following day it can all change.

One of the things that the past month has shown is that when there is uncertainty about the future, foundations can be rocked. We saw that in the way that the financial markets recently reacted to a lack of clarity and detail about the country's future economic direction. With the upcoming COP26 conference in Sharm El Sheikh, Egypt, we are talking to students about the great need to reach common understanding and ongoing commitment to bring about a sustainable and stable future for the planet and all of its inhabitants.

Whilst our school is very much a place of constancy, not only for our students but also our staff, it is also a place for rich variety. Students are cared for, they have opportunities to learn and have fun with others, and are able to express their talents, giving them potential for growth and development. (It was a joy to see the Sixth Form engage with each other during their cultural awareness day at the end of last term). Developing a society of tolerance and mutual respect through an effective, broad and balanced education is an important part of any educational establishment and so it is vital that we adapt to the behaviours and needs of the society and communities we serve, whilst balancing this with stability in our approach... for a sustainable future.

Having lived abroad for brief periods of time, I have grown to enjoy the certainty that the British seasons bring. There is a rhythm to the year, punctuated by various festivals both religious and non-religious; today being Hallowe'en. This cycle is something retailers make full use of as you'd expect, but it can also bring comfort and enjoyment to life as it brings variety around the structure of the year and the sense of stability that this brings; a sense of variety within its stability.

Yours faithfully,

Mr C Bishop (Headteacher)