

SJF/kw

1st September 2023

Dear Parent/Carer,

I look forward to joining Queen Elizabeth's School as Headteacher in September 2023. I have been a Headteacher for nearly 10 years and began my formal teaching career in 1992 at a secondary school near Cambridge. Along the way I have taught or led all ages from Year R to Year 13 in a range of different schools from an outstanding school in East London to a successful sixth form college in Salisbury. I look forward to bringing that experience to Queen Elizabeth's School.

As with all human endeavours, schools are places of constant renewal and development and I know that strong foundations have been put in place by the outgoing Headteacher, Mrs Boyes. I plan to build on these foundations to help QE become the best it can be.

Our school ethos is captured in our "Commitment to Hope". Job 11:18 says, "You will be secure because there is hope". If we are all committed to hope then this encapsulates the power of the community; how much we can achieve when we work together. It is a vision of a world towards which we all strive.

My personal drive is to extend this principle of community and hope further; to realise that by learning and living together with respect, each one of us within the community becomes greater in terms of realising our individual potential. I want all our students to enjoy academic success and I want them to become well rounded individuals with the character, confidence and moral values to tackle adult life. I want every student to thrive at QE and believe that disruption free learning in every classroom is a fundamental right for each student. To do this, we need to value our staff and give them the opportunities to be their best so that they can work in partnership with parents and carers to give each one of our students the very best platform for the future.

In order for every student to succeed, aiming for 100% attendance is what we expect. The Department for Education states that, "Being in school is important to your child's achievement, wellbeing, and wider development. [Evidence](#) shows that the students with the highest attendance throughout their time in school gain the best GCSE and A Level results. Our research found that pupils who performed better both at the end of primary and [secondary school](#) missed fewer days than those who didn't perform as well."

In the penultimate week of the summer term, attendance at QE fell to 85% which is 4% below the national average. Academic data from the DFE states that nearly 84% students with 100% attendance achieved grades 4-9 in both English and Maths. Only 35.6% students with attendance below 90% achieved grades 4-9 in both English



and Maths. So, improving attendance is a key priority for QE and we will be working hard with families to ensure school absence is kept to a minimum.

I hope that everyone has a great start to term and I look forward to meeting you over the coming months.

Yours Sincerely



Simon Firth
Headteacher