

24th July 2021

Dear Parent / Guardian,

I hope that this letter finds you and your families safe and well.

Firstly, I would like to take this opportunity, on a personal and professional note, to thank you all for the unwavering support that you have shown our school. This year has been extremely difficult to navigate, with challenging times that I'm sure none of us have ever experienced or witnessed before, but with your support behind our fantastic staff team, behind the Senior Leadership Team, behind myself and most importantly behind our incredible children and young people, it has been made a whole lot easier than at times I feared it would be. Seemingly impossible situations became manageable, and it has been a team effort from the whole school community – so, thank you for the significant part you all played.

Yesterday we said 'farewell' to a number of Year 14 students who will now go on and flourish in their Post-19 provisions, and whilst it is always an emotional day to see them go it is absolutely the right thing and the right time for them to spread their wings and fly. A number of our Year 6 pupils will move from our primary schools up to secondary provision at Green Meadows, Meadows Park (Benton Park High School) and to Allerton High School, and we wish them all well on the next chapter of their adventures with us. I was fortunate to be at the Orchard Class Graduation Ceremony yesterday at our Brudenell Primary School partnership, and there wasn't a dry eye in the house as we saw two pupils celebrating their time at primary school with their friends and families – with black gowns and mortar board hats of course! We also said goodbye to a number of pupils who's families are moving home over the summer so will join a new school in September, pupils and families who have chosen to attend an alternative specialist provision for next year, and pupils who have been accepted to join mainstream schools full-time for the rest of their education outside of our partnership provisions; we wish them all well wherever they are going, and we have absolute certainty that they will achieve great things going forward,

We also said goodbye to our Assistant Principal, David Bergan, who is moving on to pastures new in September, and also farewell to Mary McNaney who has been one of our class teachers at Green Meadows and most recently in Orchard Class (Rawdon St Peter's Primary Partnership). Michael Lyn, one of Teaching Assistants (Milner Class) leaves us too, and we wish all three of our colleagues the very best for their future careers.

Joining us, is Todd Cheetham as Assistant Principal – Todd has been Assistant Headteacher at Greenacre School, Barnsley for the last 10 years with a whole school responsibility for outcomes and interventions. Greenacre is also part of the Wellspring Academy Trust and has been rated as Outstanding in their last two OFSTED Inspections.

Principal – Mr Gavin Hosford

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During his time at Greenacre, Todd developed his skills in managing challenging behaviours, supporting pupils with a wide range of physical disabilities, and worked closely with families to provide additional support. Todd was instrumental in the development of systems to analyse pupil progress and implemented a whole school intervention programme to support all learners. Todd is a Specialist Leader in Education (SLE) and has offered inclusion support work in Secondary schools to advise on accreditation pathways and has devised personalised programmes of study to support individuals in mainstream with great success. We are delighted that Todd joins us in September, and I'm sure that you will all join me in welcoming him to GMA.

Chloe Seccombe joins us as a Class Teacher and will lead Brownlee Class in 2021/22. Some of you will know Chloe as she joined our school four years ago as a Teaching Assistant, and completed her teacher training this year whilst working in Kestrels Class. We are proud to have supported Chloe through her training, and even prouder that she has chosen to remain with us to start her undoubtedly successful career.

Over the summer months we will see a major investment in the buildings at Green Meadows from Wellspring. The Trust clearly recognised that the schools would not only benefit from some improvements, but that there were areas of our estate that needed immediate works to be completed. Work planned for the holiday period includes new roofs for the primary and secondary schools, with new fascia boards, and a new image for both sites, with contemporary wooden cladding being fitted to the front elevations. It will look amazing, and is exactly what our children and young people deserve – the best facilities for the best learning experience. Internally our ancient IT system is being upgraded with miles of new cabling, new network points and WiFi hotspots, Google video-conferencing equipment in the Meeting Room, as well as new laptops, Chrome Books and iPads for our pupils to benefit from. Our new Food Tech kitchen has now been completed opening for lessons in September, and we are hugely grateful for the generosity of Variety, the children's charity, for their incredible support. In September Variety will be back again and will be remodelling our Key Stage 1 playground, so that our youngest pupils will be able to benefit from a purpose-built outdoor learning space. Exciting times!

As a result of the building works our school buildings will be closed over the holidays meaning that staff will not be able access their classrooms. This means that Monday 6th September will be a Closure Day, with all sites closed to all pupils – our staff will be using this time to plan and prepare for the coming year. Tuesday 7th and Wednesday 8th will be Staff Training Days – meaning that all pupils will return, to all sites, on Thursday 9th September. You can find information about our planned Training Days and the school calendar on our new website – details below. In short, we will be following the Leeds School Calendar, but we do have Training Days planned for our staff across the year, so please have a look.

Finally, I would just like to wish you all a happy, peaceful and refreshing summer holiday, whatever you have planned. We are all excited about September already, but I'm sure you'll agree that we all need some time off first!

With best wishes, take great care, and stay safe and well.

GH

Gavin Hosford, Principal

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