

Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> September 2022

Dear Parent/Carer,

I am delighted to welcome everyone back to the start of a new school year. I am particularly pleased to be doing this as the new Head of School. I have enjoyed the past year making new links with a similar Kent school but it is lovely to be back and I have enjoyed catching up with many of you over the past week. I would like to extend a particularly warm welcome to all our new parents and carers. I hope to meet as many of you as I can over the coming weeks. I am always out on traffic duty (usually wearing a blue high-visibility waistcoat so you can't miss me!) Please do come over and say hello or pop in and see me if you are in school. Please remember that parents are able to drop off their children or young people at 9.15am to avoid the taxi queues, if they wish.

Our young people have settled in remarkably well so far in what has proved to be quite an eventful start to the term. Towards the end of last week we heard the sad news that Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II had passed away. We can confirm that on Monday 19<sup>th</sup> September, the day of her funeral, school will be closed to students and staff as a mark of respect for people to remember The Queen in whatever way they see fit. It is also a national bank holiday. We will re-open on Tuesday as normal.

We have a busy term ahead which includes Harvest festival for Walmer on Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> October and Folkestone on Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> October. Zone 1 will be sending out some more information about how people can participate and contribute, if they wish, nearer the time.

As a community we are mindful that we are living through some very challenging times in terms of the cost of living. We have put some information on our website: [www.learn.thebeacon.kent.sch.uk/parents-and-carers/family-support/](http://www.learn.thebeacon.kent.sch.uk/parents-and-carers/family-support/) including links to organisations that can help with advice and details of local foodbanks and cooperative schemes. Please remember also that our Multi Agency Support Team are on hand to offer support, advice and guidance. Their contact details are [julie.howell@thebeacon.kent.sch.uk](mailto:julie.howell@thebeacon.kent.sch.uk) or [janette.kitchenham@thebeacon.kent.sch.uk](mailto:janette.kitchenham@thebeacon.kent.sch.uk) - they are also on duty every morning outside at the start of the day should you wish to see them then.

Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> October will be our first parents' evening of the new school year. It'll be a chance to meet your child's teacher and see how they're settling into their new class. Invitation letters will be coming out in due course.

On Friday 7<sup>th</sup> October from 9.00am – 1.00pm we have Mental Health Awareness training for parents. This is a free, valuable opportunity to raise awareness of some of the challenges our children and young people face. It is led by our Mental Health Champion, Ellie Garrett and we would encourage you to attend if you can. Please email [ellie.garrett@thebeacon.kent.sch.uk](mailto:ellie.garrett@thebeacon.kent.sch.uk) to book a place directly with Ellie.

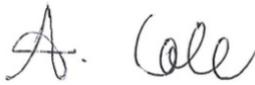
On Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> October at 10.00am we have our first Parent Forum meeting of the year. This is our chance to meet you over coffee for a chat, to get to know you and to listen to any

questions or concerns you may have. We would love as many of you to join us as is possible. If you are going to come, please let us know so that we can arrange as much tea and coffee as we need. Please email me directly and I will make sure that whether you can come or not, you receive the notes from our meeting. My email address is [alison.cole@thebeacon.kent.sch.uk](mailto:alison.cole@thebeacon.kent.sch.uk) or you can call reception on 01303 847555 and ask for me or leave a message.

I do intend to write a termly newsletter but our day-to-day news is communicated through our Facebook page – [The Beacon Folkestone Official](#). Here you will find all our news updates and other information that we think you may find useful. Day-to-day communication about your child or young person is of course conducted through home school books or diaries.

We believe our parents and carers are essential partners who we are keen to work with closely for the benefit of the children and young people we serve. We look forward to working closely with you over the coming term and indeed the rest of the school year.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "A. Cole".

Alison Cole  
Head of School