

Tuesday 12th July 2022

Dear Parents/Carers,

I can't believe that we are already rapidly approaching the end of the school year. We are anticipating an uninterrupted year starting in September and I am sure we are collectively welcoming this.

Pleasingly, we continue to see strong evidence of the rapid progress made by our pupils, not just getting "back on track" but continuing their meaningful learning pathways. The majority of our pupils are continuing to make expected or better progress across all areas. Nationally, children and young people are demonstrating significant learning gaps that are widening in core areas. At The Beacon we are experiencing a situation where the large majority of our pupils are making expected or better progress across their curriculum pathways, bucking the national trend! I am looking forward to you sharing these successes when you read your child's report, enclosed in the same envelope as this letter.

It was superb seeing so many of you enjoying recent events with your children and young people. We have loved hosting the Race for Life, achievement celebrations and sports days. Coming back together has really created a positive buzz within The Beacon community.

We will be saying farewell to some of our leaders in the school at the end of this summer term. Bev Evans (Head of School, Folkestone) will be moving to an executive position closer to her home. She has loved her time at The Beacon, but this opportunity is one of those that cannot be missed and we wish her all the best for her new role which starts in September. Claire Lidyard (Assistant Headteacher for Zone 2, Folkestone) will be returning to her studies and working in the mainstream sector, allowing her the time to focus on her Masters qualification. We wish Claire the best of luck and commend her brave choice in returning to her studies.

There is always an element of sadness at saying goodbye to some fabulous colleagues, but this is tempered by the excitement and possibilities that change can bring. I am thrilled to be welcoming back Ali Cole as the Head of School, Folkestone: she has had a very productive year away at Wyvern School, influencing some major changes. Her return in this promoted position is well earned.

We have looked internally to fill the remaining leadership positions at The Beacon. Jackie McFarnell will be moving from Primary (Zone 1) to Secondary years 7-9 alongside the progressive support at our satellite at Walmer as it continues to develop.

Lastly, I am sure you will all join me in congratulating Casey Fletcher into the role as interim Assistant Headteacher for Zone 1. This is a role Casey has been growing into for some time and is the natural step for her and the school to take. She has The Beacon community at the core of her thinking and has been integral to our successes throughout her time here.

Contact details for the leadership team from the start of term are:

Headteacher	Ady Young	Ady.Young@thebeacon.kent.sch.uk
Assistant Headteacher Zone 2 (including Yrs 7,8,9) and Walmer	Jackie McFarnell	Jackie.McFarnell@thebeacon.kent.sch.uk
Head of Operations	Sasha Gooding	Sasha.Gooding@thebeacon.kent.sch.uk
Leader of Learning, Walmer	Nathan Moore	Nathan.Moore@thebeacon.kent.sch.uk

Our annual parent and carer survey is now available for you to complete. We value your feedback so would be grateful if you could please take five minutes to fill in the survey on our website - <https://learn.thebeacon.kent.sch.uk/parents-and-carers/parent-and-carer-survey-2022/>

We will be entering the new academic year fully focused on learning outcomes and development of your children/our pupils. Our goal remains as strong as ever: **to enable our pupils to be as independent as they possibly can be, to make a positive contribution to society and reach their maximum potential.**

With our full focus on learning opportunities and no anticipated disruptions (please note, no mentions of Covid anywhere) then I do need to remind you that attendance at school is compulsory. We have 190 school days every academic year to be making the expected (and in most cases accelerated) progress with your child/young person.

I know a number of you have been scuppered with rearranged holidays dates and events this academic year. From September we won't be facing this and cannot allow any non-attendance. Please use the 175 non-school days in the year and support us with making the most of every single ounce of learning time available.

As a leadership team we felt it best to be up front about the national stance regarding compulsory attendance and expectation that every child attends every day they can. We really appreciate your understanding in this matter.

I know a number of you have enquired about term dates for next year. The important dates outside of KCC core term dates are the INSET days. For next year these are:

Thursday 1st September

Friday 2nd September

Friday 2nd December

Friday 23rd June

Monday 26th June.

Lastly, we will be welcoming a new class to Walmer in September – Browne class. The new class will be named after local author Anthony Browne (his books include *Voices in the Park* and *Gorilla*). The class will be for year 3 and 4 pupils (current Carle class) and the teacher will be Joel Olbrechts. Joel has been with The Beacon for a number of years and is looking forward to his new role. He has already been working with the current staffing group and children to ensure a smooth transition period. He will be a huge asset to the Walmer community.

I'd like to take this opportunity (albeit a little early) to wish you a super and safe summer holiday. We will look forward to welcoming back the pupils on Monday 5th September.

Yours sincerely,



Ady Young
Headteacher