



7 December 2018

Dear Parent/Carer

Another busy year draws to a close and I know many of you, and certainly the students, as well as the school staff, are looking forward to a well-earned break during the festive period.

It has been an eventful first term to the new academic year, most notably because we are now an academy and we have joined, along with our local primary partner schools, the Red Kite Learning Trust. The opportunities for our students, and staff, in the future to work with others across the region is a real positive next step for us and provides us with the chance to fulfil one of our core values, that being to work collaboratively. Such opportunities will help our students to develop a new range of communication skills, knowledge and understanding of how to work with others in a digital age; critical, when one considers the increasing demands on young people when they now enter the world of work. We want our students, your children, to be ahead of the curve when they leave us, with the knowledge, confidence and competence to tackle anything that lies ahead. We know working with other Red Kite schools will help them reach that aim

In addition, this term, we participated in a pilot inspection for Ofsted, as part of its research into the proposed new inspection framework, which comes into effect from September 2019. Despite being a somewhat gruelling experience for many (inspections always seem to be!), the students were excellent. Particularly, those that met with the inspectors and talked honestly about school and its strengths and also the areas we still need to be better at. Unfortunately, because it was a pilot inspection there is no published report to be able to share with you. However, what I can say is that the feedback from the visiting team was overwhelmingly positive and we will be in a stronger position, as a school, under this new framework. This is testament to the work of everyone here in terms of offering the best curriculum experiences to all our learners.

Some other exciting news I would like to draw your attention to is that we have a new website and we now have a Facebook page. We know that many of you use these platforms often and we wanted to ensure we could offer something better than before. In doing so we can engage with you more easily and often, providing you with the information about the school you want. I do want to make it clear from the outset, that our Facebook page is designed for information sharing and the celebration of events, and activities, here at the school. It is not designed as a public forum for some to share their displeasure with us. We believe the most effective way to deal with your concerns, or issues, with us is via telephone or face to face and I would encourage you to continue to use these methods. I trust parents can respect



this position, I would be disappointed if our attempts to be more open resulted in a small minority of people spoiling it for the rest of us. Thank you in advance for your understanding.

May I also take this opportunity, as I do every year at this time, to remind you of our procedures in the event of an unplanned school closure, for example: due to severe weather. Any changes to the usual opening arrangements will be communicated on the school's website, Facebook and Twitter. A message will also be sent out via the school's MyEd app. If you haven't already done so, you can download the app from your apple/android store and search for MyEd. **Where no updates have been provided, parents should assume that the school is open as normal.**

To help us with our communication with you regarding such events, I politely request that your contact details are kept up to date with us so that we can contact you as quickly as possible, thank you.

For your information: **school will close on Friday, 21 December at 12.30 pm.**

School will re-open to students on **Monday, 7 January 2019.**

Finally, may I wish you all a peaceful and relaxing Christmas and a prosperous New Year.

Best wishes

Matthew West  
Principal