

8th September 2023

Headteacher: Ms Kelda Stevenson NPQH

Dear Parent/Carer,

I hope that this letter finds you well and that you had a restful summer break with your family. We were delighted to welcome the most important members of the Swakeleys community back into school yesterday morning. It has been so lovely to hear the children around school and feel their energy and excitement to be back. Thank you for your support in ensuring that your child was in school on time and ready to learn. As a result it has been a really smooth start back to school. A very warm welcome to the new families joining our school community as their child begins at Swakeleys in Year 7. All of the staff have commented on what a lovely group of students they are. Year 7 have spent the day today involved in character and culture activities – learning what we are about as a school. Ms Allan the Year 7 learning coordinator will be sending a separate letter out to Year 7 families in due course. We will also send a pastoral update over the coming days once the students are fully settled back into school.

I wanted to make you aware that it is our open evening for prospective students and their families on **Thursday 14th September** and a reminder that lessons will end at **2.15pm (2.05pm for Year 7)** on that day so we can get the school ready for the evening. If you have a daughter in Year 6 then we look forward to seeing you and a gentle reminder that siblings of students at Swakeleys still need to complete the supplementary assessment form and sit the NVR test on Saturday 7th October. It would be fantastic if you could encourage friends of yours with Year 6 daughters know that they are very welcome to attend our open evening! Many of our students have volunteered to help on the evening so thank you for your support. School will start at the slightly later time of **9.40am** on **Friday 15th September** to give us time to be ready to greet the students. Please could students ensure that they are in school **for 9.30am** next Friday ready for tutor time at 9.40am.

I am very much looking forward to meeting you in person over the coming weeks at the parental engagement evenings. A reminder of the dates and times can be seen below:

Year 7: Wednesday 27th September, 6pm–7pm

Year 10: Thursday 9th November, 6pm – 7pm

Year 8: Tuesday 10th October, 6pm–7pm

Year 11: Thursday 5th October, 6pm – 7pm

Year 9: Thursday 9th November, 6pm–7pm

Each of these sessions will be carefully planned with the relevant year group in mind and give you an opportunity to meet your child's form tutor, year learning coordinator and other key staff. I will be sharing with you the foci for our school development plan and you are able to spend time in the school environment where your daughter comes every day. It really is important that you do have input into the school and that we work in partnership with you.

In order to ensure the safety of all of our school community please can I ask that all parents driving onto the school site are mindful of other road users, road markings (including double yellow lines) and pedestrians. Can I politely request where possible that you make alternative arrangements to drop and pick up your child away from the school site in order to avoid congestion.

At Swakeleys we know our role involves supporting the social development of our students. To this end a gentle reminder that mobile phones should not be seen or heard in the school building during the school day because we want students to be interacting with each other. We have all manner of games from jenga to uno and table tennis tables as well as a range of lunchtime clubs so that students can have a good time at lunchtime. On the topic of mobile phones it is always worth keeping an eye on what your child is up to online and in particular to be aware of some dangerous online challenges that circulate. The following link is a useful starting point for parents to explore further the world of social media:

<https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/>

I do hope that you and your family have a restful weekend. We will send a text reminder about the changes to the school week next week. Also some advance warning that Wednesday 11th October is an INSET day.

Yours faithfully,



Kelda Stevenson
Headteacher
Tel: 01895 251 962