



Dear Parents and Carers

I can't believe that I have been at Kimberley for more than half a school year already, thank you for making me feel so welcome as I settle into this role. My aim is for all of our students to leave school with excellent qualifications and having developed the wider skills that they will need for a successful adult life; this has been the focus of my work at the start of my tenure in this post.

You will know that in 2015 Ofsted set us the challenge of improving examination outcomes; please be reassured that we are working across all aspects of the school to ensure that we see the significant improvements in examination results that Ofsted demand of us. The purpose of this letter is to update you on a number of aspects of this work that you need to be aware of.

Student Support Team:

I want to improve the way in which we work with you when there are pastoral problems that are getting in the way of your children being successful. The quicker we work together to resolve these problems the less the impact on your children and their academic progress. **After the Easter Holiday** we will be launching the **Student Support Team**. This is a team of highly qualified, professional, dedicated non-teaching staff whose role is to work with parents and carers, students and teachers to quickly resolve any issues related to behaviour, attendance or welfare. If you need to contact school about any of these issues then you will be directed to this team and they will work with you to quickly resolve your concerns. This will mean that you will no longer have to wait for a response from a teacher who may be teaching all day and unable to contact you for a long period of time; and that there will be people in school who can try and resolve some problems immediately because they do not have teaching commitments throughout and after the school day. Year Performance Leaders and Tutors will still play a crucial role in your child's education and will remain a point of contact for you in school. The Student Support Team will be led by Donna Hawkes who will work under the direction of the Senior Deputy Head Teacher, Shan Tait. In order to fulfil their roles successfully, the team will be able to issue sanctions in-line with the school's behaviour policy.

Additional INSET Day:

Teachers and support staff across the school are working incredibly hard to adjust all of their planning, teaching and assessment so that it enables all students to achieve their Kimberley School GCSE Target. At the same time they are also implementing new GCSE and A-Level Specifications as well as adjusting their teaching so that it prepares students for the new linear assessment models for both GCSE and A-Level. In this context, the governors of the school and the trustees of East Midlands Education Trust have identified that staff require an extra INSET Day to implement these changes. **This additional INSET Day will be on Thursday 29th**

June. Friday 30th June had already been identified as an INSET Day and staff will be using these two days to ensure that everything is in place to ensure that all students are successful in these new examinations. I am a parent myself, I do understand that this will be inconvenient and I can only apologise for this. However, please do be reassured that this time will be invaluable for staff and will be to the ultimate benefit of all students in the school.

Paperless Communication:

Since moving to Kimberley I have been frustrated by our inability to communicate electronically with all of you. If school and home are to work together successfully then we need to find quick,

easy and reliable ways of communicating with you. In order to do this **we will be moving to paperless communication at the start of May 2017**. Prior to making this change we will be running a couple of trials during the next half term. If you think you need to update the mobile number or email address we have for you then you do this by sending an email to data@kimberleyschool.co.uk.

This is an exciting time for The Kimberley School. We are significantly oversubscribed for places in Year 7 in September 2017 and are seeing record numbers of applications for the Sixth Form. Our membership of the East Midlands Education Trust is supporting us as we navigate the challenging financial and educational landscape. I am absolutely confident that this great school will go from strength to strength for many years to come, thank you for your continued support in our work in securing the very best education for your children.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'A George'.

A George
Head Teacher