

19 April 2024

Dear Parents/Carers

I hope that you enjoyed the Easter period!

As I welcome you to the summer term, we have already seen the best and worst of the British summer weather – we were welcomed back on Monday morning with heavy rain and hailstones, as well as benefitting from some beautiful sunshine later in the week! The summer term is always an exciting and busy time, with residentials, sports days and transition day to prepare and look forward to. The pupils have arrived back at school with renewed energies and have settled back into their learning quickly and enthusiastically. It has been a pleasure to see them working hard in their lessons.

I would like to introduce two new members of staff to our community. Melanie Aylward is an experienced English teacher who joins our English faculty and will teach Year 7 and Year 8 English classes previously taught by Lucy Lee. Melanie will also be tutor to 8.3. Danielle Durston joins us to lead our new Enhanced Learning Provision, which will be launched in September. Danielle will plan and prepare for this new provision during the weeks ahead, as well as getting to know families and pupils that she will be working with. She will also be teaching some Year 5 and Year 6 classes for the remainder of the academic year.

I would like to congratulate Declan Murphy on his successful appointment as Assistant Headteacher at Ansford Academy in Castle Cary for the next academic year. He fully deserves this promotion and I have no doubt that his Year 7 cohort of pupils will be keen to continue to work hard with him for the remainder of the academic year.

Thank you to those of you that joined our recent FPTA meeting. The bulletin has provided a number of opportunities to support their work and help raise valuable funds for the school to further enhance our work. Thank you in advance for supporting these initiatives when you are able to.

Finally, you will have seen from other correspondence that I will be leaving Fairlands at the end of this term. Please be assured that I remain dedicated to working hard and providing the best educational provision on behalf of the pupils and staff in my remaining weeks. A separate letter confirming leadership arrangements for Term 6 has been shared with parents and carers.

As always thank you for your continued support.

Yours sincerely

Stefan McHale Headteacher