



Blue Coat Church of England Academy

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Principal: Mr D Smith

17th June 2021

Dear Parents/Carers,

Thank you for your continued support and understanding as we navigate our way through the many challenges which we have faced related to COVID restrictions and the cancellation of examinations this year. We are continually adapting plans to try and make things as normal as possible, including opening up more spaces for pupils at break and lunchtimes and increasing practical work where we can. I sincerely hope that we will be able to return to much more normal operation in the not too distant future but this in itself will require a significant amount of planning and preparation as we try to keep the positive aspects from the past year while working towards offering the full range of the curriculum across the school.

The disruption earlier in the year means that we have a staff training day to arrange before the end of this school year. This will now take place on **Friday 2nd July** and pupils will not attend school on that day.

Over recent months we have been working closely with West Midlands Police to support the reestablishment of a Schools and Police Panel in Walsall. The new panel has been launched this week and is designed to develop more efficient working relationships and improve communication between schools and the police. We are also working in partnership with West Midlands Police and Walsall Children's Services to identify and provide appropriate support to pupils who have experienced domestic violence in their household; this scheme is called Operation Encompass. When Walsall's Multi-agency Safeguarding Hub receive a notification from the Police, they will use appropriate systems to establish the relevant education provider of the child and pass this information to our Designated Safeguarding Lead, Miss Billingham. On receipt of any information, the Designated Safeguarding Lead will decide on the appropriate support the child requires. All information sharing and resulting actions will be undertaken in accordance with the Joint Agency Protocol for Domestic Abuse – Notifications to Schools'. We will record and store this information in accordance with the record keeping procedures outlined in this policy.

There continue to be many challenges as we approach the final few weeks of this term, but as always we remain committed to providing the best provision possible to allow children to learn in a safe and caring environment. We are very appreciative of your support and look forward to continuing to work with you to ensure that we maximise the opportunities presented as restrictions are relaxed in the future.

Yours faithfully

D. Smith
Principal

