



Headteacher: Mr D. Williams
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Thursday 15th July 2021

Dear parent / carer,

As we speed towards the end of an incredibly challenging school year, I wanted to take this opportunity to thank you once again for your support and cooperation. It has been a real privilege to lead the school through these incredibly difficult times and it has also been heartening to receive all the messages of support and appreciation off families. I have been very proud of the pupils and how they have approached this and the staff have simply been outstanding in their determination and dedication. As you will be aware, there are significant changes in September in how the school will be operating and our new year will begin with year groups returning on a staggered basis over the first 3 days (6th – 8th September) as we carry out on-site testing before pupils return to lessons. My letter from last week outlines these changes in more detail however please note that there has been a last-minute change in guidance from government which now states that **children should wear face coverings when travelling on school transport**. As with everything else, I'm sure this will be kept under review.

We are also investing heavily in some of our facilities over the summer. We are remodelling the library to provide a high-quality ICT room as well as a new independent library facility. We are upgrading our computers throughout the school and have just installed 75" interactive touch screens in every classroom. I am committed to our children having access to the very best and I am sure they will quickly see the benefits of this recent investment in technology.

At this time of year we also tend to have some staff changes. As you will know, Mr Day collapsed in school last September and unfortunately he is still in hospital. He is a highly-respected member of staff and an excellent teacher; he has also been our friend and colleague for many years. Due to the nature of his ongoing illness, sadly he won't be able to return to teaching and so will be taking early retirement. I, along with the whole school community, wish him all the best in his recovery – he will be greatly missed. Mr Chapman has been covering his classes this year and will be installed as a permanent member of the science team from September. Mr Dixon and Mr Peruffo have also been appointed as co-Heads of Science and will share responsibility for leading this core department.

Mrs Churchward is also leaving us at the end of term having taught mathematics here for the past 8 years. She and her family will be moving to live and work in Africa over the summer so we wish her all the best. Once again, an excellent teacher who has made a real impact on our school; Africa's gain will be our loss as she takes up a Head of Department post in a school there. Joining the mathematics department, will be Mrs Catton who will also be a Year 7 Form Tutor.

Mrs Hale has also decided to retire at the end of this academic year. Mrs Hale is one of our longest-serving members of staff, having worked here for 20 years! An extremely dedicated and committed teacher, she has taught Child Development, Food and Textiles with significant success for many years. We wish her all the best in her well-earned retirement.



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Finally, I would like to congratulate Mr Jones on his appointment as our Deputy Headteacher with responsibility for Behaviour and Wellbeing. This is a key appointment for the school as we look towards maintaining and developing a sustainable model of school leadership moving forwards. His promotion to this role is well-deserved and will ensure that we continue to focus on maintaining the highest possible standards of pastoral care for all our pupils.

This has been a year like no other. Like me, I'm sure you are all hoping that next year, we will be able to return to some semblance of normality. That will be our aim and we will be looking forward to welcoming the children back in September. Our Test and Trace system will terminate on Sunday 18th July at 3.30pm; up until then please continue to notify us on STAFFWH@weobleyhigh.co.uk if your child tests positive for COVID. There will be no need for pupils to carry out their twice weekly tests over the summer although they will start again in September once they have had their supervised tests in school on their return. This will be reviewed at the end of September. I would also ask that you complete your online consent forms (<https://forms.gle/LdxFHG3TqauuF6gy7>) as soon as possible if you haven't done so already.

I now wish you all a fantastic and restful summer with your families. See you all in September!

Yours sincerely,

Dean Williams