

Start of Term 2023- Head of School Letter

8th September 2023

Dear Parent/ Carer,

As we come to the end of the first week of the new academic year, I am delighted to say students have made an excellent start to the year.

Students have begun their first year in their Houses, and are getting to know their new teachers well. I am sure you will get to know the teachers in your child's House very quickly. Your child's House is incredibly important and these teams are deeply invested in each of the students in their care. Please remember that each House is led by a Head of House, who is working hard to make sure students are well looked after, they are known as individuals and they reach their full potential. They do this by leading a team of Achievement Coordinators and Tutors. Please get in touch with your child's Tutor if you have any concerns at all. If you are unsure of who you should contact, please see the table below to help.

House	Head of House	Achievement Coordinator(s)
Shackleton	Mr Frith	Miss Serwadda (KS3) Miss Southworth (KS4)
Hillary	Mr Peel	Mr Wilder (KS3) Miss Hollis (KS4)
Livingstone	Mr Houghton	Miss Millar (KS3) Mr Boundy (KS4)
Quest 6	Mr Kubilius	Mr Reissland

This week has been very busy- with normal first week activities such as photos, assemblies and organizing IT, but also with the fire drill in our new locations. Most importantly, in lessons, I have been incredibly impressed by the level of work completed. Students really seem to have hit the ground running, and we will be looking to reward these efforts in a number of ways going forwards.




Obviously, it has been very warm indeed this week, but students have met the start of term with infectious enthusiasm nonetheless. It has been great to see students arrive to school ready to start the year with prefect uniform, a smile on their face and keenness to get things right. It has been very hot and so we have encouraged students to take the steps below. It does seem likely that temperatures will return to normal next week, but it will still be pleasant and the above steps are good advice regardless.

- Remove their blazers in classrooms if they wish.

Head of School: Mr T. Beecham, BSc (Hons), PGCE, MA

Executive Principal: Mr A. Crofts BA (Hons), PGCE, NPQH, NPQEL

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- Bring a water bottle to school- they are permitted to drink water in all lessons unless there is a safety concern (e.g. Science) and have the opportunity to refill these using the facilities in the canteen at break and lunch.
- We have reminded students that, whilst the blazer is compulsory, the jumper is optional so should not be worn if students are too hot.
- Staff have also ensured that classroom doors and windows will be kept open to ensure good ventilation.

Please remember that students must arrive to school in full school uniform. We do have some items we can loan in an emergency under our deposit scheme (where students leave a specified item as a deposit) but if this is not possible, students will not be admitted to school. A full uniform list is available on the school website under the [Uniform tab](#).

Please also remember that students are not permitted to use mobile phones on the school site. These must be **switched off and out of sight** by the time students come onto the premises. They are not allowed to be taken out again until students have left the site completely. If students need to contact you (or you need to contact them) during the day this must be done through the office or another member of staff. If a phone is heard or seen on site it will be confiscated for 1 week on the first occasion. This rule really does have a positive impact on student engagement and learning in school, and we do appreciate your support in maintaining our high standards.

If your child is entitled to Free School Meals please ensure you have applied for this at the following link. If there are any issues with this, please email your child's Tutor or Achievement Coordinator. <https://thequestacademy.org.uk/parents/free-school-meals/>

Please be aware that Tuesday 19th September will be our open evening. In order to ensure there is enough time to prepare and clean the premises, students will be dismissed at 2.30pm on that day.

My assemblies this week have focused on the idea that "the thing we do most, is the thing we do best" and so it is by doing the right thing the most, that these things become a habit and second nature. This includes the Empowered element of LEARN (making healthy choices for ourselves such as with getting to school on time and in the correct uniform etc) but also with choosing to work hard, get our homework done well and not spending time on things we might not value in the future. I hope you can take the time to discuss these ideas with your child at home, and see whether they can tell you anything about what I spent some of my time doing as a child!

I am genuinely excited by the start our students have made. As I said to them earlier this week; I am incredibly proud of them, and am inspired by what they do every single day. I am very much looking forward to the learning experiences they will enjoy throughout the rest of this term and year.

Yours sincerely,



T. Beecham
Head of School