



7th September 2022

Dear Parent/Carer,

Embracing a new school year

I hope you have had a very enjoyable summer with your family and friends. It is wonderful to welcome you and your daughter back for another year particularly after such an unprecedented disruption to schooling for so many students in recent times. We have just celebrated the GCSE results achieved by our 'Class of 2022.' These remarkably resilient young people overcame many obstacles to achieve such wonderful and thoroughly deserved outcomes. We have no doubt that we will have another fantastic year to celebrate, as a school community, this year.

I am delighted to report that our students have settled fantastically well. Thank you so much for all your support in helping your daughter to look so smart and confident. I would like to draw your attention to **a further two INSET days this term on Wednesday 5th October and Monday 5th December.** Please look out for our Parent Bulletin publication in the coming weeks which details key dates for your diary that can also be found on the school calendar on our website <https://www.davison.w-sussex.sch.uk/hub/>

My vision for the forthcoming year, and indeed my tenure here as a whole, is one where we celebrate the rich and varied diversity of our students, ensuring that we offer many memorable opportunities and life-changing experiences. I see education as the key to unlocking the future potential of our young learners and with this opportunity comes the need for ambition, determination and resilience.

I am sure I can count on your support to achieve the very best for your daughter in developing these traits. As parents, we have all witnessed the very slow release in which we have allowed our children to gain independence. In view of that, we must act as partners working together to ensure that the children continue to grow, on their journey of faith and independence, into becoming the fine adults that we know they will prove to be.

I cannot always claim that we will get every decision we make correct for everybody there are no such things as perfect students, teachers or parents/carers. What I can guarantee is that we will always work to the best of our ability, for each child, and that we offer ourselves to you in a partnership held together by our mutual aspiration for your daughter.

In view of this, I would really like you to work in a supportive partnership with us and to interact

in a way which shows our combined care, support and guidance. As part of this supportive partnership I would like to remind you of our mobile phone policy (copy attached) which encourages students to learn to manage the use of their devices in preparation for adulthood. Rather than having a 'no phones' policy, we allow the use of mobile phones before and after school and at break and lunchtime in designated spaces. We would ask that you discuss this policy with your daughter and support us in implementing it, as using mobile phones inappropriately can lead to confiscation and conversations with parent/carers in relation to any breaches.

As I conclude this letter, I hope you can understand my need to outline a concern which manifested itself on a number of occasions last year. I have waited until the start of this new term to address it as I do not wish my comments to be internalised by any one parent/carer in particular. Undoubtedly due to the difficulties and anxieties experienced within the pandemic, our staff reported issues of being spoken to or communicated with in extremely disrespectful ways on occasions last year. This was invariably the case when being informed of standard sanctions which are applied consistently across the school in accordance with our behaviour/uniform policy. I am sure you can understand that this is never going to be something which is productive when we are all working so hard to give students the very best experience of Davison that we can under very difficult current circumstances.

Our home-school agreement outlines that 'all communications should be rooted in mutual respect.' As we embark upon what is undoubtedly going to be a very difficult year for economic reasons amongst others; It is imperative that we work together to support each other rather than model verbal or written communications which we would not wish to be the recipients of ourselves. On the rare occasions that this does happen, I inform the relevant parent/carers that my colleagues will cease to communicate verbally with parents/carers until I have had a personal meeting to gain reassurance that communications will be more respectful moving forwards. I totally accept that we can disagree, and that at times the school must acknowledge that it could have done better, but I also have to support my staff in requesting that we must remain respectful in our mutual interactions. I have no doubt that this message will be reflected upon positively by the vast majority of our school community and I would also like to take this opportunity to thank those very many parents/carers who sent in such positive and uplifting comments throughout last year.

I wish you and your daughter an enjoyable and enriching Autumn Term.

Yours faithfully

Chris Keating
Headteacher