

6<sup>th</sup> September 2019

Dear parents & carers,

It has been an extremely positive start to the new academic year and we are delighted to welcome our students back after their summer break. Routines are bedding in, expectations are high and the sense of optimism for the year ahead is tangible. Thank you, therefore, for sending your child to school in full school uniform and with the correct equipment for their learning.

As a school we are delighted with the fantastic GCSE results we received in August, the headlines figures for which can be found on our school website under the 'About' – 'Performance' links. We knew that last year's Year 11 were a great cohort and their strong outcomes are a credit to the talent, commitment and hard work of our students and all the staff at the school along with the support you provide as parents and carers. We are very proud of them all and hope that their success inspires and motivates all of our students to be the best they can be throughout the year.

Autumn Term is always a busy time with several events on the horizon including the Year 7 Bushcraft Camp; Presentation Evening for Year 11 Leavers; School photos; Open Evening & Morning and the Sponsored Walk, to name but a few. We will ensure that you receive more information about these events in due course, however may I take this opportunity to inform you that School photos will be taken on Friday 20<sup>th</sup> September? Photographs will be taken from 09:00am onwards commencing with all family groups being photographed then all students will have individual portraits taken. They will be collected when needed, so they should attend normal lessons until called for. A proof pack (with prices) will be given to all students later in the term and parents/carers will be able to choose which, if any, photos they wish to purchase.

A new school year welcomes a cohort of new Year 7 students and also several new teachers to the school. I must congratulate our Year 7 students who have made a great start to their time with us under the watchful eye of Mr Wright, Head of Key Stage 3 and the excellent team of Form Tutors and support staff. Well done to them all; they have all quickly found their feet. For existing students, as Year 11 commence their final year in school and look towards their examinations, Year 10 begin their Key Stage 4 courses. As ever, the email addresses of key staff are available on the 'About' – 'Our Staff' page of the school website. Please do get in touch with any of your child's teachers if you have questions about the year ahead.

Finally, I am delighted to inform you that the planned merger of South Shropshire Academy Trust and Bridgnorth Area Schools' Trust has now officially taken place. Therefore, as of 1<sup>st</sup> September, Church Stretton School is one of six schools within the new Trust, alongside Oldbury Wells School, Castlefields Primary School, St Leonard's CE Primary School, Stokesay Primary School and Alveley Primary School. The opportunities for partnership working, sharing best practice amongst staff and possibilities for students to collaborate are really exciting. More on this as schools get to know each other throughout the year!

I look forward to seeing you during the school year.

Yours sincerely,



John Parr  
Headteacher