

March 2022

Dear Parent / Carer,

A really warm welcome to 'Team Durrington'. Together we are all setting out on an exciting journey and want your child to be happy and thrive at our school. We do this by;

- home and school working in partnership
- recruiting and retaining great staff who provide the best teaching, learning and care
- a rich and broad curriculum
- a fantastic and varied programme of clubs and trips; locally and abroad

Being happy and thriving – Home and school work together to support your child to have strong physical and emotional health. Durrington does this through our outstanding pastoral care and our staff making every effort to know and value each and every child. Our values-based rewards system “KAPP” (Kindness, Aspiration, Perseverance and Pride) is bespoke to Durrington and we go out of our way to recognise and celebrate the achievements and successes of every single child irrespective of their background or ability, both within and outside of school.

Excellent teaching, rich curriculum – We continue to believe that a broad, rich curriculum is essential, as are staff who are passionate about their work and want the best for all children. Your child’s education is too important to be left to chance. As one of only a few Research Schools nationally our staff, as well as being passionate about teaching, know that their teaching is evidence-informed. As a result of this, our students have the best possible opportunity to achieve academic excellence and staff work in a professionally stimulating environment. In addition, as part of our recent curriculum review, all students will now study Spanish and French in year 7.

Enrichment Opportunities – As well as world-class learning in the classroom, we also provide exceptional opportunities and have outstanding facilities for sports, the arts, science and technology with a staff team willing to support a host of clubs and activities outside of lessons. Our wonderful grounds and building mean there is a campus feel where children can enjoy their studies, and breaks, during their time at school. There are many enrichment activities where students can choose to enhance their learning further. This might include an art trip to New York or Europe, a history trip to Berlin, a geography trip to Iceland, building electric cars in science club, planning a Duke of Edinburgh hike, performing in Dance Live or playing a part in a winning sports team.

Sporting opportunities have been further advanced due to our amazing new sports hall. Our next project is the building of a new performing arts and conference centre.

The current plans (Covid permitting) are to run our transition day on **Wednesday 6 July 2022**. This will be a brilliant opportunity for our new children to visit Durrington, meet their new tutor group and tutor and to have any questions they may have, about life in their new school, answered. We will contact you nearer the time to give you further details of transition day and also, excitingly, our return to a range of brilliant transition themed events and activities that we really encourage your child to take part in.

Finally, to more formally begin our partnership with you as parents/carers, we would like to invite you to a meeting at Durrington High School on **Wednesday 6 July at 6.00pm**. The meeting is for parents/carers only so that we can complete some of the practical arrangements for the transfer and answer any queries about the start of the new term. It is also an opportunity to meet some of the staff who will play a key role in your child's school career, particularly in the early stages. The meeting will finish by 7.00pm. There will be more information on the website next term and using it will give you the opportunity to learn more about us.

We are already in touch with your child's present school to prepare for the move but, if you have any queries, please contact Mrs. Bridgeman-Sweeney (Transition Leader).

We look forward to seeing you on **6 July** and on many occasions throughout your child's time at the school.

Yours sincerely,

Ms S Marooney
Executive Headteacher / CEO DMAT

Mr C Woodcock
Head of School