



December 2023

Dear Parent,

May I start my letter by thanking you for the support you have given the school over the Autumn term. It has been very busy, and not without its challenges, but I hope like me, you can see the progress being made in every aspect of what we are doing.

Of course, at the end of every term we see small staffing changes, and this year is no different. I would like to particularly recognise Mrs Walford, who is relocating to North Wales with her family. I know that she is desperately sad to be leaving the Codsall 'family' but excited about a new life in Anglesey, and I would like to wish her all of the success in the world; and thank her for the years of service she has given the school. I am equally excited to welcome Mr Buxton to our Science team and Mr Forster in the Maths team.

I have been here over a year now and I have to say I am pleased to reflect on the ways in which I can visibly see the school improving. One aspect of this is in the expectations we have of students, both in their conduct, appearance and academic studies. I realise for some that this will have been challenging, perhaps still is, but know that as parents you want the very best for your children. Raising our expectations and gently but firmly challenging those that need it is how we do this, and I want to thank you for the support you will have shown the school at home when needed. As we move into a new term can I once again ask for your support with students being in the correct uniform, and having appropriate hair, make-up and finger nails for a school environment. Students will often ask me 'why I think that having long acrylic nails will reduce their learning', I don't – but I do recognise that having boundaries and guidelines about how we present ourselves is something that exists in many adult workplaces, and that helping students learn to accept those is a positive thing. It is of course, also an important demonstration that in school we are all equal and belong to one community.

All students were issued with ID Lanyards at the beginning of the year. These are the cards that work with ParentPay in the canteen and they allow us very easily to know students belong in the school environment, and allows staff who don't teach your child to be able to use their name when addressing them. These have been given for free to all students in the first instance, but they are required to look after them and replace them at cost if they are lost or damaged. Replacements can be purchased from Student Services and through ParentPay.

In school we are delighted with the impact that Synergy is having to improve our internal systems and streamline our flow of communication. I can see from the audits that a good number of parents are now signed up to the app which is fantastic and is another way you can support us. As we move forward, we wish to move more of our communication with home to being through this platform. This includes notifying us of absence or appointments and such like. At the end of this letter, you will find a short guide to support you in using this tool. It really would be most helpful for all parents to sign in and download the app, as this will really improve the speed and reliability of our communication to you and the more, we can avoid sending expensive SMS messages, the better! Synergy provides school with a centralised switchboard for all incoming messages, that can then be appropriately directed for you to the correct staff, and monitored to ensure that where needed you receive replies. This is far more efficient and traceable than our previous methods of communication.

There have been many wonderful events over this term to raise money for charity and I really have been able to see ambition and altruism shine through. Our year 11 are just completing their mock exams at the time of writing and I am heartened by the approach they have shown to them. Whatever the outcomes of these mocks, staff will be determined to work with students to make further improvements.

Can I take this opportunity to remind all parents that school will finish at 13:05 on Friday 22nd December, and we look forward to welcoming students back at 08:30 on Monday 8th January. The normal school transport will run at the earlier time stated on Friday.

I wish you and your families a wonderful Christmas and a prosperous New Year. Please stay safe and enjoy spending time with family and friends.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'SM' or 'S.M.' with a stylized flourish at the end.

Simon Maxfield

Headteacher

School Synergy – Reporting Student Absences

- Please contact school using the Synergy app/webpage to report a student absence. School should be contacted each day that the student is unable to attend as early in the day as possible.
- If your child has an appointment and will need to be collected from school, please also report this through Synergy giving as much notice as you can. Where possible, please make sure your child is also aware of the appointment. If this is not possible, we will make every effort to inform the child of their appointment as quickly as we can, but please be aware that this can be difficult at break and lunch times.
- If you have more than one student linked to your account, please open the profile for the student you wish to report an absence for.

App version

- Open messages or inbox



- Create a new message using the icon in the bottom right of the screen



- Select "Attendance" as the department for the message.

Send Message
Upon send, this message cannot be retracted.

Student: Samantha Hobbs

Department:

Subject:

Type your message here...

Parent Queries

Attendance

- Type your message in the box below and send. There is also an option to upload files with your message (appointment cards etc). If you tap on the student's name, this should remove the keyboard from your screen and give you the option to attach a file to your message.

Web based version

- Select "Contact School"

WELCOME

RECENT MESSAGES (LAST 2 WEEKS)

INBOX 2

PARENT LETTERS

CONTACT SCHOOL

- From the "New Message" box that pops up, select "Attendance" from the department list.

New Message



Student

Department

Subject
General Enquiry
SEND
Attendance

Message

Files

Select multiple files...

- Type your message in the box below and click "Send". If you would like to add any supporting documents (appointment cards etc) you can select "Browse" and upload a file to accompany the message.