

Dear Parent,

What a year it has been! I cannot believe how fast my first year at Codsall High School has gone by. I think it is fair to say that the year has been a rollercoaster of emotions with wonderful highs and a truly tragic low. As I reflect on the year and all that has transpired, I am struck by how through all of it, staff, students and parents have come together as one community and celebrated our successes, but also supported each other through difficult moments. Thank you for being a part of that community.

Right at the start of this letter, I want to express my gratitude to all staff and students for the manner in which they approached our part in Myles' funeral. In my career to date I have never felt prouder to belong to a school community than I did in those moments of such grief and sadness. Our students were impeccable and truly gave Myles and his family a reaction of compassion and love.

I began my headship in September talking about how the school needed evolution and not revolution. At the end of this year I look back and think of the large number of things that we have improved, tweaked or reinvented to ensure that our offer to students improves. We have redeveloped the school website to make sure it is easy for you to find the information you need and have worked to improve our use of social media too. Please do take the time to re-read our policies and expectations, as these have been ratified by governors and will continue to be upheld. Students will no doubt talk about being asked to tuck their shirts in! I make no apologies for this, the little things count and we have high aspirations for each and every student – by choosing our school, I want parents to be confident that they are choosing a place of education that has high standards and will hold students to those standards. Helping students understand a sense of 'time and place', and how behaviours need to change accordingly, will help them to navigate the increasingly complex adult world.

I also want to take the time to celebrate our terrific Ofsted report following the visit that took place in March. An Ofsted report isn't just about the work of the school leaders or class teachers, it is a report on the entire school community and I hope that your children are proud to be a part of our community. In case you haven't yet read the report, I have included some of the most pertinent quotes below:

"Pupils are proud to be a part of this vibrant school. Leaders have high expectations for all pupils, and pupils live up to these expectations."

"There is an active focus on teaching and supporting pupils to improve their behaviour and become active, positive citizens. This means that pupils rarely make the same mistake again."

"The personal development curriculum is ambitious. It supports pupils to become confident and independent, so that they can develop their strength of character."

"Sixth-form students prosper throughout their time at the school. They are motivated and engaged in lessons."

Ofsted 2023

Over the summer break, our site teams will be working really hard once again to improve the decoration and furnishings in a number of classrooms, the outdoor facilities for lunchtimes and more. Thanks to the excellent financial management of the school and the care our students show for the school, we are able to make these significant investments improving the facilities we have.

Like any school, the end of a term means saying goodbye to some staff who are moving onto new positions or making other changes to their career. This year those staff include Mr Morgan-Smith (Teaching Assistant); Miss Williams (maths); Mr Hales (PE); Mrs Billingham (English) and Mrs Belcher (history). I am sure you will join me in thanking all of them for their hard work and contributions to our students and wishing them all of the very best in their future endeavours. We also will welcome a number of new staff in September including five new teachers and our full time Careers Advisor. I am really excited to welcome all to Codsall – in a national recruitment and retention crisis I am delighted that we have been able to find and appoint really well qualified and motivated staff.

As we think about the Autumn term, I am relieved that the trade disputes between the teaching unions and the Department for Education appear to have been resolved. I know that colleagues who took action always did so very apologetically and with a heavy heart.

This school year ends for students at 13:00 on Tuesday 25th July. We will enjoy our school Sports and Enterprise Day on Monday 24th, and then follow that with some lessons, tutor time and a whole school celebratory assembly on Tuesday morning. Buses will take students home at this earlier time. On Monday students will be allowed to attend school in their school PE Kits, and on Tuesday the students are welcome to attend school in their own clothes.

School will reopen to all students on Tuesday 5th September at 8:30. Please remember that from September each school day will start at 8:30 and finish at 14:55 and transport has been adjusted accordingly. On the first day back, Year 9 students will line up on the tennis courts in their tutor groups for their assembly, other year groups will go to their tutor rooms and they will have assemblies later in the day.

In the meantime, I wish all students and their families a relaxing, fun-filled and safe summer break. I look forward to seeing you again in September.

Yours sincerely



Simon Maxfield

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