

5<sup>th</sup> September 2025

Dear Families,

Welcome back and a special welcome to all our new year 7 and 12 families! Our staff have been busy preparing for your children's return, and we can't wait to get started.

We are a growing school and are delighted to be fully staffed with dedicated and passionate teachers. This term we are welcoming the following new colleagues:

- Mrs Martin -PE
- Mr Waters – PE
- Ms Torres – MFL
- Mr Millar – Technology
- Mr Matthews – Humanities and Computing
- Mr Anagho – Maths and Science

We would like to remind parents that our new uniform policy comes into effect from 3<sup>rd</sup> September. Students who do not want to wear a blazer may purchase a jumper with their House badge on it and wear that instead. Students are still able to wear a blazer if they prefer, or both in cold weather.

The number of branded items has been reduced, meeting and exceeding the new government guidance. Legacy uniform can still be worn by existing students, but we have removed most of the branded items for PE, having only the PE shirt that must be in Altwood colours, and introduced a plain black pleated skirt in our main uniform for girls.

We understand returning to school, or starting secondary school, can be an anxious time for students and so we wanted to reassure you that our pastoral team, our tutors, our Heads of House and all our support staff are on hand to make the transition back into school life as calm and purposeful as possible.

Please support us by making sure your child has the right books and equipment for each day, that you have downloaded the ClassCharts app and check it regularly for updates on House points or centralised detentions (Year 7 parents – details of how to log on and link your child to this app will be sent out to you shortly) and that if you have any concerns you get in touch. This is particularly the case if anything has happened over the holidays that may mean your child needs more support in the coming weeks.

I am very excited to be starting my second year as Headteacher of Altwood school and look forward to working with you all to ensure that your children are 'known, valued and supported to succeed.'

Best wishes



Mrs Cath Harden  
Headteacher