

13 September 2019

DNs/RMy

Dear Parents/Carers

I wanted to take this opportunity to write to you at the end of the second week of term. I am keen to introduce myself more fully and give you sense of what the team at King's Oak Academy are working towards to support all of our children to feel successful.

My name is Dr Nicholls and I have been working in education for over 20 years. I am presently the Director of Education for the Cabot Learning Federation (CLF), which means that I set the educational direction for the CLF Academies and support and challenge our Principals to provide the very best education across the Trust. I have previously been an Executive Principal, Principal of Bristol Brunel Academy and have had a range of leadership roles at Redland Green School and Devizes School.

I have a strong connection to King's Oak Academy having been the Head of Geography in the school for four years, back in 2004. Coming back to the academy as the Principal feels right and deepens my commitment to the school, the children and the broader community. I have traditional views about education, which seeks to secure high standards across the academy as the foundation for all students to grow academically and personally. We are using the phrase "Work Hard, Be Kind" to ensure we support all children to be successful and achieve their potential.

I am already very pleased and proud of the progress we have made in the first two weeks back. Staff and children have responded well to the changes and are increasingly proud of their school.

I also want to take this opportunity to introduce you to the new Leader of the Acorn, Mrs Thorn. We have made a very strong start to the year in the Acorn. Mrs Thorn and her team have exciting plans for the Acorn that will build on the excellent provision already established. This is strengthening the all-through nature of the academy as we seek to support all children to grow and achieve from age 4 to 16.

We have made many changes at the start of term to support the continued improvement of the academy. This has included a strong focus on the quality

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PRINCIPAL: DR DAN NICHOLLS CEO: MR STEVE TAYLOR | BROOK ROAD, KINGSWOOD, BRISTOL BS15 4JT  
TEL: 0117 9927127 EMAIL: KOA.PRINCIPAL@CLF.UK | WWW.KINGSOAKACADEMY.ORG.UK

of teaching and learning to ensure that children are making progress across the subjects in all year groups. We have also made changes to our routines across the day. One change that you may have become aware of is that the main gate in the morning is now opened at 8:30 am to support an orderly start to the academy day.

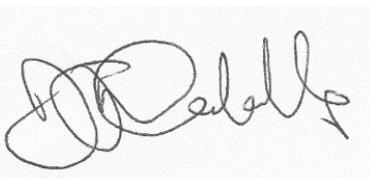
I would like to thank all parents/carers for their support around uniform and ensuring that their child[ren] are equipped to learn every day. Uniform is a strong feature of King's Oak Academy; we will insist on students wearing the uniform with pride, which includes the wearing of proper school shoes.

I also recognise the deep parental support that exists for King's Oak and I look forward to working together with parents/carers to provide the education and support that is right for all children. We will endeavour this year to improve communication with you so that you can continue to play an active part in your child's education. One area that I would ask for your support, is to ensure that the attendance of your child[ren] is as high as possible. All children should attend school, every day, unless there is a significant reason not to. Where attendance is low, children will fall significantly behind their peers in terms of achievement. The reverse is also true where attendance is high, outcomes for children improve immensely.

I recognise that there has been a sudden change of Principal shortly before the start of term. I wanted to reassure you that I have already started to make changes within the academy to ensure the highest of standards and expectations. We have arranged an opportunity for you to meet with me on Thursday 26 September at 5 pm in the Hexagon.

I hope this has proved useful and informed you about myself and the vision for the academy. I look forward to meeting many of you this week and across the academic year.

Yours sincerely



Dr D Nicholls  
CLF Director of Education/Principal of KOA

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