



HEAD OF SCHOOL: Mr I Bacon

Dear Parents and Carers,

It has been great to finally meet our first ever group of students and I hope that they have thoroughly enjoyed their first two days with us at Watling Academy. The students have done themselves and Watling Academy proud and have been immaculately dressed in their new Watling Academy uniform. Yesterday, all students spent time in their tutor groups getting to know their Form Tutor and their classmates and undertaking several orientation and acclimatisation activities. We also began to focus on our three core values of Respect, Responsibility and Kindness.

Today, we have launched our House system with the unveiling of the names of our five Houses, nominated by students and staff as part of the Transition process. Thank you to all students who entered – there were some excellent entries and we believe that the final five people chosen represent the diversity, values, creativity and expertise that underpins our city, Milton Keynes.

- **LAIN** (Dame Cleo Laine, co-founder of 'The Stables' in Wavendon)
- **LEYH** (Liz Leyh, designed and created the concrete cows)
- **MARSHALL** (Jim Marshall, founder of Marshall Amplifiers)
- **RUTHERFORD** (Greg Rutherford, Olympic long jumper from Milton Keynes)
- **TURING** (Alan Turing, famous WW2 code breaker, based at Bletchley Park)

The day has focused on team building and creating our House identities and logos. The House system at Watling will be used as a mechanism to encourage participation in extra-curricular activities across sport, music, drama, technology, debating and much more.

Our usual form of communication is via email and as an Academy that promotes sustainability we are trying to avoid sending home paper letters, however I wanted to send this letter home to you today to ensure that some key messages reach you as I understand that our emails have been going straight into some junk/spam inboxes! In order to check that you are receiving our emails, I have also emailed this letter to you. If you do not receive this email please contact the admin team on 01908 794094 or email [admin@watling.academy](mailto:admin@watling.academy) so that we can update details.

#### **Dropping off and Picking up at the start and end of the day**

Thank you for helping us to begin our time at Fairfields smoothly by dropping off and picking up your children responsibly. After talking with the Leadership team at Fairfields I would ask you either to drop off and pick up well away from the Academy or alternatively, drive into the main car park and follow the one way system back out. Please do not park at the end of Apollo Avenue next to Fairfields as this is an entrance that contractors use to access building works behind the school.

#### **Arrival to the Academy**

Part of our work on our core value of Responsibility focuses on being punctual at the start of the day and throughout the day. Punctuality has been excellent so far and families and students have made a great effort to be here on time. A reminder that all students must arrive and be in their tutor base by 8:40am.

**Respect / Responsibility / Kindness**



As of next Monday, we will be closing the main gates at 8:40am and any student arriving after this time will need to press the intercom button in order for the gate to be opened by one of our Admin team. They will then need to sign in at Reception before going to their tutor base.

Breakfast Club starts from 7:55am with doors closing at 8:20am. Breakfast Club must be booked in advance using SIMS Pay by the Friday of the week preceding – if there are any problems with that please email us.

### **Telephone Number**

A reminder that our new telephone number is **01908 794094**. The previous number is now discontinued and any messages that are left will not be picked up by our Admin team.

### **SIMS Pay**

Again, I must apologise that there have been some issues with registering for and using SIMS Pay. We are currently working through any outstanding issues and have contacted SIMS to address any technical issues. Please continue to email [admin@watling.academy](mailto:admin@watling.academy) if you do have any queries. I understand that for many of you the system has worked well but that it is extremely frustrating where that has not been the case. Please do check that the email address you are trying to register on SIMS Pay matches the one you provided to us via the student new entrant information form. School meals must be selected in advance.

### **Free School Meals**

In order to check eligibility and register for free school meals, please use the following link:

<https://www.cloudforedu.org.uk/ofsm/sims>

You must register to be able to access free school meals and free access to breakfast club.

### **Form Tutors**

Whilst at Watling Academy your first point of contact will be your child's Form Tutor. You can contact form tutors via email. You should expect a response within a maximum of two working days although I know that tutors will aim to get back to you as soon as they possibly can.

The email addresses are as follows:-

7JCY	Mr Cassidy	<a href="mailto:cassidyj@watling.academy">cassidyj@watling.academy</a>
7RST	Mr Scott	<a href="mailto:scottr@watling.academy">scottr@watling.academy</a>
7CBL	Miss Bell	<a href="mailto:bellc@watling.academy">bellc@watling.academy</a>
7RPR	Ms Piper	<a href="mailto:piperr@watling.academy">piperr@watling.academy</a>
7FWL	Mrs Wall	<a href="mailto:wallf@watling.academy">wallf@watling.academy</a>
7GHN	Mr Houghton	<a href="mailto:houghtong@watling.academy">houghtong@watling.academy</a>

Once again, a huge thank you for all your support over the first two days and congratulations to the students for making a positive, enthusiastic and successful beginning to life at Watling Academy. It has been a pleasure to meet them and all of you.

As always, if you have any worries, questions or concerns then please don't hesitate to contact us by telephone on **01908 794094** or email to [admin@watling.academy](mailto:admin@watling.academy)

Yours sincerely,



Mr I Bacon  
Head of School