

5<sup>th</sup> September 2019

Codsall Middle School, Wolverhampton Road  
Codsall, Staffordshire WV8 1PB

Tel: 01902 843177 Fax: 01902 841648

Email: office@codsall-middle.staffs.sch.uk

Headteacher: Mr P.J Bowers MAEd

Dear Parent/Carer

Welcome back! In particular, a very warm welcome to all new members of our school community. I hope you all had an enjoyable summer and are fully refreshed and looking forward to the start of what I am sure will be another highly successful, exciting school year.

As well as our new pupils (and parents!), we also welcome some new staff to our school. Mr Bates joins us as our new Geography teacher, and Miss Harris joins our Maths department. Mrs Griffiths (who some of you may remember) re-joins us to teach English. I know they are very excited to be working with us and we look forward to them building on the established successes of these areas of our school.

## Pupil Achievement

Before we look forward, I would like to briefly reflect on another highly successful year. Once again, our pupils' academic performance was above other schools nationally in all key areas. Our Year 8 pupils achieved results which were significantly better than other schools in English and Maths. In addition, last year's SATs results (our "half-time scores") were above national averages in Maths, Reading and in Grammar, Punctuation and Spelling (SPAG).

These are significantly impressive results; particularly as they were achieved whilst providing a breadth of curriculum (and superb extra-curricular provision) that few other schools can match. We are equally proud of the standards achieved in Art, History, PE, French etc., of our choir and our sports teams, as we are with our exceptionally high English and Maths standards.

To this end, we will be challenging all our staff, pupils (and parents!) to continue to work together to make 2019 - 2020 even more successful than last year.

## School Values

The more observant of you may have noticed our new driveway display, which highlights a focus on our values and expectations. This year we will be working with all the school community to develop our core values of "Considerate, Ambitious and Proud". These are the values that we expect our pupils to bring to their school life as they develop into mature "Codsall citizens".

We will be reminding them that we expect them to behave with consideration to all members of our community before, during and after school. We will be encouraging them to be ambitious to achieve their best in all aspects of school life, within and beyond lesson time. Finally, we expect them to be proud of their school, their family, their local community and themselves.

## Pupils' attitude to Learning

In addition to our values, we have specific expectations of our pupils as learners; we will be using our "3Rs" to promote this. (I have attached a copy of our display which is in every classroom, and I hope you will use these ideas to support your child's approach to learning throughout the year). In summary, we expect pupils to arrive at every lesson with a responsible learning attitude and to take ownership of their own learning. They need to be resilient during their lessons,



to take risks and be determined and not afraid to make mistakes. (Crucially, to recognise that we all learn from the mistakes we make.) Finally, we expect them to reflect on their learning, and make links across the different subject areas.

We would like to involve you as much as possible as we seek to develop these aspects of school life. As such, we will be holding some parents' information sessions on our Values and 3Rs as follows:

**Year 6, 7 and 8 parents on Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> September at 5.00 pm.**

For Year 5 parents we will include this information as part of your welcome evening on **Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> September at 5.30 pm.**

*(These meetings will also include a presentation on Mental Health Awareness and the strategies we use to support our children.)*

For those of you who can't attend, we will be filming the presentation and this will be made available on our website.

### **Visible Learning**

To support the development of our pupils' learning, our staff have been undertaking an internationally recognised training programme, "Visible Learning Plus". This is an in-depth model of professional learning and development which recognises our existing high quality teaching expertise and supports us in further improving our practice.

The "Visible Learning" approach is the result of 15 years research by international education expert Professor John Hattie. It is based on the largest ever collection of evidence into what actually works in schools to improve learning (and what doesn't!). As such, it enables us as a school to focus on the practices that have the highest impact on pupil achievement.

We have spoken at great length to many of our pupils about their own learning, and where in particular they learn most successfully. We use this information to influence our provision and, as a natural development, we plan to involve you as parents and our key partners to help future developments.

### **Communication**

I am more than aware that many of you would appreciate further opportunities to engage and communicate with school. We are providing a new App, holding more information evenings and also refreshing our website to address this.

Our new "Go4" App will make it easier for you to access information on your child's behaviour, achievement, attendance and homework. We will be holding a parents' session on the use of the App on **Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> September at 6.00pm.**

Finally, I am delighted that we are developing a new PTA with the enthusiastic support of Mrs Jessop. I hope you will be able to support the PTA as we seek to increase the number of events and activities on offer.

As you can see, there is much to be excited about as we embark on the new academic year, and I look forward to seeing many of you at one of our events in the near future.

Regards

P. J. Bowers  
Headteacher

a school to be proud of

Codsall Middle School, Wolverhampton Road  
Codsall, Staffordshire WV8 1PB

Tel: 01902 843177 Fax: 01902 841648

Email: [office@codsall-middle.staffs.sch.uk](mailto:office@codsall-middle.staffs.sch.uk)

Headteacher: Mr P.J Bowers MAEd

