



OLD BUCKENHAM  
HIGH SCHOOL

*Be the best we can be*

15<sup>th</sup> September 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

I am delighted to welcome you to Old Buckenham High School which is in the beautiful and historic village of Old Buckenham. We will not be running Open Evening this year due to the restrictions on visiting schools and I wanted to write to you to invite you to discuss with me and my Senior team the opportunities our school offers your child.

The school is situated in the picturesque village of Old Buckenham and is within easy reach of Attleborough, Diss and the surrounding towns and villages. Two courtyards form the heart of the school with views across a large playing field to the village church. A traditional hall and stage; a well-stocked library; up to date computer facilities; and design technology rooms enable the school to deliver a 21<sup>st</sup> century curriculum in a very pleasing setting.

The school has recently joined Sapientia Education Trust and this has brought enormous benefits to the school both in terms of investment and the partnership working with local schools in the Trust, including Old Buckenham Primary school and Wymondham College. Recent investment has seen improvements to the fabric of the school and the Trust has plans to continually improve the facilities including a new multi-use games area.

At the heart of our school ethos is the emphasis we place on the quality of relationships between staff and students. We are a small school and intend to stay that way, as we are of a size where students are known as individuals by staff and a close supportive atmosphere is fostered.

Most importantly we are a traditional school that focusses on our core business of teaching; embracing innovation and technology with ambitious standards and high expectations for all. Our academic standards are high and our students leave us well equipped to go on to further study or training; achieving high success in their post-16 studies at Wymondham College, Attleborough Academy and many other Sixth form providers in Norwich and Bury St Edmonds.

When students join our school, our pastoral staff will have worked with their primary school and will have met and discussed with parents what will help make their transition to our school the best it can be. Ms Evans, our SENDCo will discuss with you if you have any questions about the support we offer students with additional needs. Students will join a House which is often the same as their siblings or friends and their tutor will stay with them for the next 5 years to ensure a continuity of pastoral support. The long-established Houses are the focus of competitions, and sporting and musical activities. In addition, as students join us in Year 7, they have the opportunity to have the support of an older student through our mentoring programme. Support is also available through our Anti-Bullying scheme which is linked to the Diana Award.



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All students at Old Buckenham High School have opportunities to develop their leadership skills: successful programmes such as paired reading and numeracy support offer older students the opportunity to help and support younger students. In addition, there are many other ways students can get involved in the life of the school: subject ambassadors, community outreach and Primary school liaison for example. Our school also has a strong tradition of excellent extra curricula provision, particularly drama, music, and sport. We offer:

Sport activities: Football, Cricket, Tennis, Netball, Hockey, and many more

Performance activities: Ensembles, Jazz and Rock group, Choir, and our celebrated annual School Production

Local, national, and overseas trips

The Duke of Edinburgh Award

I am sure you will have questions about our school and many of these would normally be answered by attending an open evening or visiting the school. I am afraid neither of those will be possible this year. However, I want to make sure you have the opportunity to find out as much as you can about our school and we are offering the following:

- A virtual tour of the school
- A meeting with myself or another member of the Senior Leadership Team via Zoom or telephone
- A meeting with:
  - Mr Alderson - Head of Year 7 and Transition
  - Ms Evans - SENDCo
  - Mrs Picksley - Pastoral

If you would like to arrange any of the above or have any questions, please contact the school using the details below.

Yours sincerely,

Mr A Fell  
Headteacher

