



OLD BUCKENHAM  
HIGH SCHOOL

Achieving excellence together

4<sup>th</sup> September 2019

Dear Parents and Carers

Welcome to the new school year, and I am very much looking forward to working with you over the months ahead. Parent and school partnership is the key to making school's happy and successful places to learn and I am keen to extend the way all of us work together this year.

### Site Improvements

There has been significant work completed over the summer, which is part of the ongoing refurbishments that the school has needed for many years.

This includes

- Replacement roof and windows and veranda on one side
- Landscaping of student outside area
- Removal of three mobiles in very poor condition
- Renovation of computer suite
- Removal of decommissioned swimming pool,
- Renovation of school hall and gym floor
- Completion of toilet refurbishment in science block
- Security locking system introduced

As a result, the site feels much improved and I am very pleased to say that this level of investment and improvement is set to continue as Sapientia place OBHS as one of their top priorities for capital investment.

### Pastoral Restructure

The Pastoral team has been restructured to enable a clearer focus on our key priorities for improving attendance and behaviour at school.

Mr Taylor and Mr Cowan are our new Progress Leaders for Key Stage 4 and Key Stage 3 respectively and will use their expertise and experience to focus on the well-being and progress of our students. Mrs Wabe and Mrs Picksley are our new Progress Managers for Key Stage 4 and Key Stage 3 respectively and will have a clear focus on attendance, safeguarding and promoting positive behaviour. In addition, Mr Alderson will lead our Transition Programme and have responsibility as Head of Year 7.

Mrs Edmonds will continue as our Attendance Officer and Mrs Prince as our Behaviour Manager.

The team will be led by Mr Dwight (Assistant Headteacher) who brings extensive experience to the role.



Headteacher Mr Andrew Fell Address Abbey Road, Old Buckenham, Norfolk, NR17 1RL  
Tel 01953860233 Email [office@oldbuckenhamhigh.norfolk.sch.uk](mailto:office@oldbuckenhamhigh.norfolk.sch.uk) Website [www.obhs.co.uk](http://www.obhs.co.uk)

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### Parent Consultation

Many of our students achieved very good GCSE results and went on to their preferred choice of post 16 option. However, we were disappointed with the overall GCSE results this summer. I understand that parents will be concerned about this dip in results and I can reassure you that plans are already in place to ensure our current Year 11 students are successful this year and we return to our strong track record. We will continue to focus on the improvements in teaching that has been our priority for the last three years. In addition, Sapientia are providing support for the school at a teacher and whole school level, and extending the collaboration already undertaken with colleagues in our partner schools in the Trust.

To ensure we listen carefully to the views of parents and all stakeholders, the school will be undertaking a series of engagement activities with parents to gain the views of as many parents as possible. It is very important that we listen to the views of all parents and to do so we will be conducting an in-depth survey, details of which will be shared very soon. In addition, the Autumn Parents Forum meeting will be scheduled for Monday 16<sup>th</sup> September at 5.30pm. Myself, Governors and representatives from Sapientia will be available to discuss parents' concerns and views in an open forum.

### Staffing

As mentioned at the end of last term, I am pleased to inform you that we are fully staffed with the following new staff:

Jo Evans – SENDCO/English Teacher  
Jennie Woods – Technology (Lead teacher Resistant Materials)  
Nathan Gull – English Teacher  
Ben Scott – Instructor Teacher  
Francesca Ahern – Instructor Teacher

### PD Days

The planned Professional Learning days on 24<sup>th</sup> January and 20<sup>th</sup> April 2020 were not included in the planner or the calendar published earlier, apologies for the oversight. These days will be spent working with the other schools in our Trust supporting the improvement in Teaching. If this presents problems around childcare please contact the school, where arrangements can be put in place.

I am very much looking forward to the year ahead and hope to work closely with parents/carers to ensure our students have a successful and happy year.

Best wishes,



Mr A Fell  
Headteacher

