

OLD BUCKENHAM HIGH SCHOOL

Headteacher: MR PETER WHEAR

Telephone:
01953 860233

Fax:
01953 860944

E-mail:
office@oldbuckenhamhigh.norfolk.sch.uk



Abbey Road
Old Buckenham
Attleborough
Norfolk
NR17 1RL

12th January 2010

Achieving Excellence Together

Dear Parents and Carers

It is a real pleasure and privilege to be writing my first letter to you as the new Headteacher of Old Buckenham High School. This is a wonderful school with so much potential and an evident sense of community pride - its staff, students, parents and governors are deeply committed to its further success. At the start of this new decade, it is my sincere belief that all of us working together as members of the Old Buckenham community will transform the school into an outstanding one.

You may have read in the local press that I was appointed, having previously served as a Deputy Head in two schools in South London. In fact, I have spent my career to date in a variety of schools in London and Surrey. My wife and I are, however, very happy to have made the move with our children to Norfolk and we are all looking forward to starting a new chapter of our lives in the area. We spent a frantic Christmas holiday moving from our house in Surrey and coping with the untypically seasonal weather but we have received a wonderful welcome here and already feel very much at home in this beautiful part of the Country.

As Head, my primary aim is to ensure that the quality of Teaching and Learning in the school continues to improve all the time and I have set out clear expectations of the staff and students. Our motto is *Achieving Excellence Together* and I want our students to enjoy their education by focusing on their learning and the learning of others, to feel safe, secure and happy at school and to play a full part in the life of the school and the wider community. You will also expect me to have very high expectations of students' behaviour, both in school and to and from school, and so I will insist that:

- students wear their uniform well and with pride – we are a uniform school;
- students arrive at school punctually and get to their lessons on time;
- students follow carefully the instructions given to them by the adults in the school.

My first week as the new Head has not gone entirely to plan and I regret having had to make the decision to close the school early on Wednesday and then on Thursday and Friday. Unfortunately, I was left with little option in view of the poor weather conditions and the threat of further snow and ice. Under such circumstances, the safety and security of the students on the journeys to and from school are my primary concern. I also had to bear in mind the fact that a number of staff living further afield were unable to get into school. I greatly appreciate your understanding and cooperation at this exceptional time.

Finally, having been fortunate to meet many parents and carers at the school's Presentation Evening in November, I now look forward to meeting many more of you over the next few months. May I take this opportunity to wish you a very Happy New Year.

Yours sincerely

Peter Whear
Headteacher

