

5<sup>th</sup> January 2016

Dear Parents/Guardians

A warm welcome to the start of the new year. I hope that you all had a relaxing and peaceful Christmas period.

### New Staff

The following staff join us this term and are warmly welcomed:

- **Mr Ashdown** – Head of PE. Mr Ashdown is a very experienced Head of Department and we are delighted that he has relocated to this area
- **Mrs Awoyemi** – returns as a Business Studies teacher. I am delighted to see her returning to us
- **Mr Mantey** – Business Studies/Economics, 3 days a week. Mr Mantey is a highly experienced former Head of Department and brings further expertise and experience to a highly successful Department. His appointment is also “additional” to our core staffing levels
- **Mr Nadem** – Science, to fill Mr Elam’s post following his retirement. Mr Elam was part-time but is replaced by a full-time colleague in Mr Nadem, creating additional Science capacity
- **Mrs Winterbone** – Media/English, 3 days a week. Mrs Winterbone is a former Headteacher and as such also brings further expertise to a very strong staff body
- **Mr Davies-King** – Cover Supervisor

### Maternity Cover:

- Mrs Asghar – Science, for Mrs Kempthorne

### New Building

The school made a successful move over the Christmas period. Special note must go to our ICT Support and Site teams, both of whom worked right through the Christmas break in order to get things set up and ready for the new term. All of the staff did a phenomenal job in unpacking the entire school in just two days, and I am very grateful to everyone.

The school looks fantastic and we are very much looking forward to showing you around it. The Sixth Form, Year 10 and Year 9 have Parent Evenings this half-term and we intend to offer tours of the building on those evenings. In the same vein, Year 11 have a Parent Engagement evening coming up, and Year 8 have Options evening, both of which will include tours. We will be in touch with Year 7 parents regarding plans to give them tours of the new facilities.

Visitor parking remains at the front of the school. To gain access to the school, you will need to walk up to the front of the building – by the blue “fin” with the gold G on it. You will then be able to buzz to request access to Reception.

As with all new builds there are some “snagging” areas that need to be addressed, much of this comprising touching up of paintwork where it got slightly scuffed during the move. Interserve are working through a list of areas to be addressed and will be doing so over the next one to two months. As I write we have no phones. This is entirely down to BT who have unfortunately provided a very poor service on this occasion, but we are assured that the situation will be addressed as a matter of urgency.

In terms of next steps for the building project, these are:

- Demolition will start on the old buildings very soon. There will inevitably be some noise but it will be kept to a minimum, as during the build itself
- The area where the old buildings are now will then be landscaped – grass, trees and plants – creating a superb leisure and outdoor sport area for students
- The staff car-park will move back to the front of the school
- Where staff park now will return to being the field
- The entire project should be totally complete by August 2017

I am absolutely delighted with the building, and very much hope that you will share that feeling.

### School Dog

As per my letter of 6<sup>th</sup> December 2016, our school dog, Maximus, will start with us in the near future. Maximus is a black Labrador, known for their excellent temperament. He will become a full member of our student community, undertaking learning walks, and interacting with students, eg as a reading dog. Maximus is still very young and sleeping much of the time, so his exposure to students and staff will be undertaken slowly and gradually.

You will find our school dog policy on our website. The school's Behaviour for Learning Policy has also been updated in line with Maximus joining us, and is also available on the website.

Very importantly, if your child has an allergy and/or is scared of dogs, please can you email my PA, Mrs Cook, on [kco@goffs.herts.sch.uk](mailto:kco@goffs.herts.sch.uk). A list will be kept of these students and every effort made not to take Maximus into those classrooms. Please can I ask that you let me know if this applies to your child **by Friday 13<sup>th</sup> January 2017**.

For those of you who would like to meet him, we look forward to introducing Maximus to you. I thought that our Digital Leaders might also like to do a weekly blog for Maximus once he is established in school, and will be discussing that with them.

This term is a hugely important one as we move into the phase where "final" exam preparation starts to be undertaken. We look forward to continuing to work with you to ensure that each child fulfils their potential.

Kind regards.

Yours sincerely



**Alison J Garner**  
Principal