

Dear Parents & Carers,

We are writing to thank you for the support you have shown since we have taken up post at King Richard School on 1 March. We have found a school full of enthusiastic and dedicated staff and students who are keen to learn, and see the school's journey of improvement continue with the future intention of making King Richard School the number one choice for young people in Portsmouth.

This letter is designed to keep all parents and carers up to date with the current interim leadership arrangements at the school, plans for the future and school based operational changes that will be taking place between now and September 1, 2018. A big thank you to all parents, carers and friends of King Richard who attended the parent information evening on Thursday, 8 March. It was great to be able to share our vision for the school and that of United Learning into the future. A copy of the information evening's presentation can be found on the school website.

It is the intention of United Learning to advertise nationally for a new Headteacher at King Richard with the successful applicant taking up post from September 1, 2018. We recognise in the interim period it is vitally important to provide the school with sufficient leadership capacity and that is the reason why we will be splitting our time at the school over the summer term.

After the Easter holidays, the school will be launching a new Behaviour System. All United Learning schools follow a 'disruption free' trust-wide Behaviour Policy and this will come into effect at King Richard immediately after the Easter break. We have enclosed a copy of the new policy with this letter and placed it on the school website to ensure openness and transparency. Staff training and student assemblies will be delivered before the Easter holidays to ensure all stakeholders are aware of the changes. We would like to reassure everyone that we have had significant experience of launching this Behaviour Policy in a high number of secondary schools, and the impact on student learning is significant and has always led to improving progress and GCSE outcomes for all students.

From September 1, 2018, the wearing of boots will not be permitted at the school. We are aware that currently a significant number of girls choose to wear this type of footwear and the school has not challenged this. We are also aware of the financial outlay such shoes incur for parents/carers. We are therefore providing due notice (6 months) that the Uniform Policy will be black shoes only from September 1, 2018, with no exceptions provided. The Uniform Policy will make clear what shoes are and are not acceptable to wear at the school from September 1, 2018. Currently we see no reason to change the King Richard school uniform and will be updating the policy on the school website in due course.

The use of mobile phones at the school is currently causing lessons to be disrupted and student learning to be slowed. Because of this from June 4, 2018, students will not be allowed to use a mobile

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phone or any other electronic device on the school site. This includes all lessons and any breaks in the school day. We recognise some parents and carers may wish for students to have a mobile phone in their possession to and from school for safety purposes. This is entirely sensible and can continue, but we see no reason to have mobile phones on show or being used in the school. They need to be switched off and placed in the student's school bag. If the phone is seen or heard during the school day, it will be confiscated immediately and parents/carers asked to collect it. We are again providing adequate notice so this does not come as any surprise when the policy starts on June 4, 2018.

Currently the school day at King Richard begins at 9am and finishes at 3.35pm on a Monday, Tuesday and Thursday with a 2.55pm finish on Wednesday and Friday. We will be writing to all parents and carers after the Easter holiday with anticipated timings of the school day going forward from September 1, 2018. We are very keen to hear parent/carer opinion about a potentially earlier start time and seek to gain the views of all stakeholders.

We look forward to meeting you all in the near future and thank you in anticipation for your ongoing support. Please do not hesitate to contact either of us if you have any immediate questions about the content of this letter.

Kind regards



Ben Antell  
Interim Executive Principal  
King Richard School



Steve Adcock  
Executive Leadership Support  
King Richard School