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Dear Parent/Guardian,

I thought I would write to you to report back on my first week at the helm as Headteacher.

Firstly, thank you for your support as parents. I have had a number of kind messages directly from parents and via social media comments and I am really grateful for this.

It has been an incredibly busy week and as reported earlier in the week, Monday was spent delivering key messages to staff regarding behaviour management and teaching and learning.

On Tuesday I gave assemblies to the students on my expectations which seemed to be well received. I have endeavoured to spend a period of each day walking around the school during lesson time to ensure there is a calm, purposeful atmosphere supporting staff where necessary. I am also out and about each break and lunch meeting the students, chatting to them about their days and what's going well. Overall, at lunch I have been delighted by the conduct of the students in these times particularly the older boys who have a very organised and full game of football at every break; whilst the match is always passionate it is also played in the correct spirit which is really pleasing to see.

As a part of my first few weeks I am also in the process of seeing each of my members of staff so that I can support them, find out their career plans and gather feedback on the school. Over the last couple of days and over the course of the next week I am also travelling out to our catchment primary schools to meet the Headteacher and tour the schools with a view to fostering these relationships and promoting the image of the new MECE to these schools and the parental bodies. Lastly, I have been working with the middle leaders and members of SLT on the Year 11 drive for examination success and I hope to have something I can put out to you in more detail by the start of week beginning January 20<sup>th</sup> that will detail what we are doing and when.

I have noticed from almost all of the students a real desire and passion to do well and that is wonderful to see. I will be working on putting in place in the next few weeks systems to ensure that if a student doesn't want to learn there is somewhere for them to go to ensure that they can get the behavioural support they need and also the rest of the class can get on and make the academic progress that is necessary.

Next week, the students will be attending an assembly presented by Mrs Benham, one of our Assistant Headteachers, regarding uniform and why we have it. I am not intending to change the uniform code this year but will be asking students to stick to the code that has been published for some time. Please follow this link to read our uniform guidance document.

Once again, thank you so much for your support. I am so excited about where we can take this school!

Best wishes,

Andy Hartley Headteacher