



*In the morning fill us with your love,  
we shall exult and rejoice all our days.*

PSALM 89

## HEADTEACHER'S MESSAGE

Dear Parents,

Welcome to the first newsletter of our new academic year. I hope that you and your families have enjoyed a restful break and managed to find some sunshine to enjoy. As I write this, the first week has gone and the school is back into the business of teaching and learning, moving forward and growing. Staff arrived back to school on Monday and we engaged in 2 days of training on various aspects of teaching and learning including some work on SEND and on improving literacy across the school.

The Responsorial Psalm this week calls for God to fill us with His love in the morning and this week I have seen this amongst our community as we return and get back into the routines we set up last year.

It was with great pleasure that we welcomed our new year 7s on Wednesday. They have had a wonderful week full of induction activities to settle them in, and to round it all off we celebrated mass together on Friday. We also welcomed back an increased number of Year 12s into our Sixth Form.

I was delighted to see so many of them return and I think the increase in numbers is indicative not only of their own personal success this year in their GCSEs, but also of

their confidence in our ability as a school to support their learning and journey through Key Stage 5. A testament to the outstanding progress of our Year 13s this summer too.

This week has been perhaps the most positive start to an academic year I have had since I started teaching. I hope that many of you will have seen some of the publicity regarding our results over the summer. Some highlights for the GCSE exams are as follows:

*An increase of 11% in pupils achieving a standard pass in Maths and English.*

*A progress score which will bring us in line with National averages.*

*The best progress score in Sandwell for Mathematics.*

*28.5% of GCSE RE students achieved 9-7.*

*An increase of 9% in students achieving a Standard pass in English.*

*Science achieved positive Progress Scores across the board.*

The good news continues for Sixth Form as we see 4 out of 5 of our pupils heading off shortly to the university of their choice to study what they want to. Value added scores show that our students here made almost 2 grades more progress

than expected in their A'levels and over 1.5 in their Vocational qualifications. So we start this academic year full of hope and invigorated.

Over the summer there has been a substantial amount of work carried out to ensure that your child returns to an environment which is safe, clean and allows them to feel proud to come to a school which is investing in them and their future. In addition we have a number of new staff and we will introduce them to you and your children in next week's newsletter.

I would like to thank you as parents for supporting us through what has been a rapid but successful programme of change. This programme will continue with the emphasis very firmly on making sure that your child is safe, happy and achieving to their fullest potential. Thank you too for sending your children back to us looking so smart in their school uniforms.

The subtle changes to the uniform look great and I hope that you like their new ties, although I think we may have to do an assembly on how to tie ties! Next week will be a full newsletter once more.

Have a lovely week and God Bless,  
**Mrs Morris**