

24th August 2021

Dear Parents/Carers,

It gives me great pleasure to write to you and introduce myself as the new Principal of Ormiston Rivers Academy. I am very proud to have been appointed to lead this fantastic school. The school has many strengths and enormous potential and I look forward to the prospect of leading its next phase of development to deepen learning and raise aspiration. I am joining Ormiston Rivers Academy having spent the last five years at Hassenbrook Academy, a school in Thurrock that was in special measures, is now a good school and that now achieves exam results in many subjects above national averages. Prior to this I spent five years in the senior leadership team of a school in Haringey, North London. I feel privileged to be able to bring this experience to Ormiston Rivers Academy.

I hold a strong belief in the power of education to change children's lives and the right of every child to receive an excellent education. I believe in building opportunities for students to achieve the highest academic standards, ensuring that they are known well as individuals and that their unique personality, talents and interests are nurtured and developed to the full. I very much look forward to meeting you at forthcoming events such as Parent Surgeries and Parents' Evenings in order to get to know you.

One of my key objectives this year is to build upon and continue to improve student progress and achievement in examinations. In order to do this there will be a firm but fair implementation of the school's behaviour policy to ensure the right environment for learning for everyone. There will also continue to be a strict implementation of the school uniform policy. It is important for students to have a sense of pride in their appearance and represent their school well both in and on their way to and from school. Mr Marklew (Assistant Principal) has sent out further details regarding the school's behaviour and uniform policy.

You will be aware of the concerns regarding students' mobile phone use in school that has been much discussed in the media recently. I wish to ask for your support to implement a new off and out of sight rule for mobile phones:

- All mobile phones should be off and out of sight during the school day, Period 1-6, including at break and lunch times, unless phone use is directed by a member of staff as a part of teaching and learning
- Sixth Formers will be able to use phones at their discretion with sensitivity to the phone rule for Years 7 to 11
- At the end of the school day, once students have exited the building, phones may be used
- If phones are seen during the day and in the building, they will be confiscated and returned at the end of the day via student reception
- Students that repeatedly use their phones will be subject to the school sanction system and you may be asked to meet with a member of staff to collect your child's phone

I appreciate your support to reinforce expectations regarding students' phones in school. I very much look forward to meeting with you in the near future and working in partnership with you over the coming years to secure the best possible future for your children.

Further information is attached to this letter regarding students' return to school and Covid 19 testing.

Yours faithfully,



Joanne Williams
Principal