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**THE BULWELL
ACADEMY**
*Creative
Education
Trust*

2 October 2018

Dear Parent/Carer

It gives me great pleasure to introduce myself as the new principal of The Bulwell Academy. I feel very privileged to have been appointed by the Creative Education Trust. Everyone has made me feel very welcome and I have enjoyed my first few weeks at the school. This is my third headship; having previously been Headteacher at a British school in Germany working for the Ministry of Defence and Service Children's Education and more recently the Principal of Caister Academy in Norfolk.

I am looking forward to working with the whole community in moving The Bulwell Academy forward, enabling it to be the best school in the area. I have the very highest expectations of all the staff and pupils, and it is my intention to raise standards in every area, helping all pupils to achieve their full potential. We have a committed staff, wonderful young people and amazing facilities, which is a great place to start and I will be listening to the views of the pupils and parents as we move towards our goal. I believe that The Bulwell Academy has many great strengths and the relationship between parents, staff and pupils is crucial to the success of the school. By working together, we can ensure that all pupils enjoy their time at the academy, make good progress and leave us with the necessary skills and attitudes to be successful in their future lives.

I firmly believe every young person has a right to learn and all teachers have the right to teach free from disruption. I therefore expect excellent behaviour and a positive attitude to learning at all times and I have already started to challenge the minority of pupils, who feel that my expectation that all pupils work hard in every lesson and do as asked first time, does not apply to them.

The best thing I can do as Principal is ensure the young people leave at the end of Year 11 with a good set of GCSEs to their name, which will enable them to follow any pathway they wish in the future. I have already started to raise expectations across the academy and will be ensuring that all staff are constantly challenging and inspiring all pupils to aim high and be the best they can be, but at the same time I will ensure we support them to do this. Pastoral care is a priority and I want to lead a school where all pupils are valued and included and feel they have a voice and are listened to.



I make no excuses for expecting all pupils to arrive at school on time, wearing the correct school uniform every day. Lessons start promptly at 8.30 a.m. and I would therefore ask that all pupils are in school by 8.20 a.m. in order to give themselves time to get to their classes and be ready to start their learning.

Good attendance is key if young people are to be successful. We started the year well and attendance was above the national average for the first three weeks. However, there was a dip last week and our attendance dropped significantly. This is disappointing and we will be alerting parents and speaking to those pupils, who have started to have days off. Pupils cannot hope to make progress and achieve well if they are not in school. I accept there will always be occasions when people are genuinely ill, however in my experience people are not usually ill every Friday or every Monday. We will be monitoring attendance carefully every day and interventions will be put into place to support pupils who are not reaching the high levels we expect. Every pupil should be aiming to be in school at least 95% of the time. I am very aware that Goose Fair arrives in Nottingham this week. As a school, we will expect all pupils to be in school all week and will be working with external agencies to chase those who are not in school.

I would like to believe that as parents you all value your children's education and will work with me to ensure they achieve the best outcomes they can. This does start with ensuring they are in school, on time, every day and I would therefore ask for your support with this.

I very much look forward to us working together to improve the life chances of all at The Bulwell Academy

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read 'M Strong'.

Michelle Strong
Principal