



Castlebrook High School



● INSPIRE ● CHALLENGE ● EXCEL ●

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Academy Principal: Mrs S. Armstrong BA (Hons), NPQH

10/06/2019

Dear Parents/Carers,

I am writing to let you know well in advance of the plans we will be putting into place from September 2019 to enable us to significantly improve how we support all our learners to be happy, safe and learning to the very best of their ability.

As a result of research, reviews of best practice and responses to staff and student voice activities, we are strengthening the pastoral team in school and re-organising form and year groups. While there is no doubt vertical forms were appropriate at one stage of our school improvement journey, there is now widespread recognition (including very positive feedback from a recent external behaviour review by a team of Ofsted inspectors) that our school is ready for the next stage of its development.

Therefore, in order to ensure there is the best possible alignment of pastoral and academic support, form groups will be re-organised according to year groups, with all members of each form in the same year group. These changes will enable us to ensure that:

- Ready to Learn form time activities are truly age appropriate
- Pastoral support is tailored to meet the needs of each different year group.
- Academic mentoring, tracking and support is across year groups and not houses.
- Outcomes improve for all learners

Five teachers will take up the new posts of Head of Year and Progress, one for each year group for years 7 to 11. They will still teach and will have time put aside to fulfil their roles as heads of Year and Progress. The five Heads of Year and Progress are as follows: Mr Farrell – Year 7, Miss Osbiston Year 8, Miss Taylor Year 9, Mr Devonport (who will join us from 1st September) Year 10 and Mr Shabaz Year 11.

These five Heads of Year and Progress will be further supported by three non-teaching Pastoral Leaders, two of whom (Mr Allen and Miss Challinor) are currently heads of house, and one external appointment, Mr Gilchrist who also joins us from 1st September. Mr Gilmore is leaving us on 14th June to pursue a teaching career and we wish him every success for the future and thank him for the very positive contribution he has made to our school.

When form mentors have been assigned to each year group we will of course let you know. Our House System will continue to operate, with inter-house competitions and challenges. All the team here at Castlebrook have welcomed these changes and we have every confidence that they will enable us to deliver outstanding pastoral care and academic support. Thankyou in advance for your support.

Yours sincerely,

S Armstrong

Mrs S Armstrong
Academy Principal