



Downs View

Executive Headteacher: Vanessa Hickey

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www.downsview.brighton-hove.sch.uk

Further Education Provision: Downs View Link College, Surrenden Road, Brighton BN1 6WQ **Telephone:** 01273 507719

8th September 2023

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back and I hope you had a lovely summer. It has been great seeing all the pupils returning and meeting all pupils new to Downs View. I hope your child has enjoyed being back in school/college. Do get in touch if you have any concerns or questions.

New Assistant Head

I would like to welcome Sarah Doonan to Downs View. Sarah was appointed at the end of last term and will be replacing Rachel McDonald-Taylor as Assistant Head on the school site. Sarah started with us on the 1st September and will be the main contact for Primary.

A reminder of the deputy emails are below:

Deputy Head – DVW (Secondary) – Jackie Hutchings - jackiehutchings@downsview.brighton-hove.sch.uk

Assistant Head – DVW (Primary) – Sarah Doonan – sarahdoonan@downsview.brighton-hove.sch.uk

Deputy Head – DVLC - Juliet Hudson - juliethudson@downsview.brighton-hove.sch.uk

Deputy Head - DVLSC – Raul Ortiz – raulortiz@downsview.brighton-hove.sch.uk

If you have any questions or queries then please get in touch with your child's teacher in the first instance.

Playground

The new playground at the school site is now open and it has been lovely seeing it in action. We also have a new wheel chair swing that is a great addition to the playground. A big thank you to The Friends of Downs View who supported us with a large donation towards it.

Medical needs

A big focus of our INSET days was medical training to ensure that we are fully trained to support all pupils. Training is now based around the individual pupil which has meant we had to increase our training offer. I want to thank Louise Loadsman, our school nurse, who has ensured that all staff are trained. If the medical needs of your child change then please let us know immediately so that we can ensure we have trained staff in place.

Respect Aspiration Resilience

An **aspirational** learning environment with dignity and **respect** at its core, where everyone reaches their potential through effective communication, building **resilience** and having fun.

RAAC

You may have seen recent media coverage regarding Reinforced Autoclaved Aerated Concrete (RAAC) and its use in educational settings. RAAC is a lightweight form of concrete; because it is weaker than regular concrete, concerns have been raised about its long-term durability. The Department for Education (DfE) has recently changed its guidance to education settings on the management of RAAC to take a more precautionary approach and as a result areas in affected spaces will be vacated

We wanted to inform you that we are not affected by this decision as we do not have RAAC in any of our buildings and therefore they will continue to function as normal. We understand that parents/carers may want to understand more about the support to educational settings to manage RAAC safely. You can read more through the article published by the DfE on the Education Hub. I hope that this offers reassurance.

Absence

Just to remind you, the procedures for reporting your child absent are as follows:

If your child is poorly or they have a medical appointment please could you contact the school/college as soon as possible and by 8am on the day of absence. It is important that you do this so that we can arrange safe staffing levels for every class. The details for reporting absences are as follows:

Downs View School: 01273 601680 or please email office@downsview.brighton-hove.sch.uk

Downs View Link College: 01273 507719

Downs View Life Skills College: 01273 551028

Please remember that in cases of diarrhoea and sickness your child should remain off school/college for 48 hours from their last bout of sickness or diarrhoea.

If you wish to take your child out of school/college during term time then a Leave of Absence form needs to be completed. Leave of absence should only be requested in exceptional or unavoidable circumstances. The forms are available from the school/college office or your class teacher. It is important that the form is completed to avoid any unauthorised absences.

If your child is going to be absent from school/college then you must also contact the Home to School Transport team on 01273 293501 to let them know that their service is not required. It is not the school/college's responsibility to do this.

We look forward to seeing many of you on site during this term.

Have a lovely weekend.

Best Wishes,

Vanessa

Vanessa Hickey
Executive Headteacher