



Downs View

Executive Headteacher: Vanessa Hickey

Warren Road
Woodingdean
Brighton BN2 6BB

Telephone: 01273 601680
Email: office@downsview.brighton-hove.sch.uk
www.downsview.brighton-hove.sch.uk

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

18th July 2024

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope you are all keeping well. It was lovely to see some of you at our recent events across school and college. I am just writing to you with some general updates.

Staffing Update

At the end of this term we will be saying goodbye to Debra Nailard at Downs View School as she will be retiring. Debbie joined Downs View in 2002 as an MDSA and progressed to a Teaching Assistant. She has been an asset to the team working across the school in a variety of classes. I wish her a happy retirement. We will also be saying goodbye to a few other members of the teaching assistant team Rachel Berry from 3JC, Mark Arnold from Squirrels, Lola from Bumblebees and Flor Valentin from DVLSC. Also, Claire Banfield, teacher of 4CB will be leaving us this term. All have contributed massively to the school over their time here. I would like to thank them for all they have done for Downs View and wish them well for the future.

Mobile Phones

As I advised in March, the Government has issued new guidance around mobile phones that has to be followed by all schools. Therefore, from September, students will no longer be able to have their phone in school. The only exception to this will be those students that travel to school independently. Those children will need to hand their phones in to their teacher once they have arrived in school.

Phones will continue to be allowed at the Link College and Life Skills College as they are young adults and we will support them around the safe and appropriate use of phones.

Nut Allergy

We have several students at school and the Link College that have very serious nut allergies that could develop into a severe, potentially life-threatening allergic reaction. For this reason, all nut-based products will no longer be allowed in school and college. We appreciate your support with this.

After School Club

Following a successful start to the after school club we are going to be extending the trial period to October half term. This will only be for the current students attending the club. If the extended trial goes well then we will look to open it up to other students from week commencing 4th November.

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.

Attendance

There is now new guidance from the Government regarding pupil attendance that all schools have to follow from September. They advise that requests for leave of absence during term time can only be granted in exceptional circumstances. Further details on this will be sent out when we return. Please bear this in mind and contact me as soon as possible if you are planning to take your child out of school in September.

Additional INSET

As advised in my letter last week, we have an additional INSET at the start of September so that we can complete all the necessary training to ensure we are able to fully meet the medical needs of all Downs View students. Therefore, Monday 2nd, Tuesday 3rd and Wednesday 4th September are now all INSET days and all students will return to school and college on Thursday 5th September. The term dates for the next academic year have been sent out and are available on our website.

Have a lovely summer and we look forward to seeing everyone back in school and college on Thursday 5th September.

Best Wishes,



Vanessa Hickey
Executive Headteacher