



Harriers Banbury Academy

an Aspirations Academy

Alex Pearson – Executive Principal

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21 July 2021

Dear parents and carers,

Wow... just when we thought 2019-20 was going to be the strangest school year imaginable, along came 2020-21.

We've had bubbles, isolations, testing, masks, vaccinations, we've learnt how to use Loom, we've filmed a lot of Loom lessons and assemblies, we had the 1 day in school in January before we went back into lockdown and we have been worried about family, friends and colleagues.

Through it all the children have kept smiling and kept being their wonderful selves. The staff have kept teaching, caring and organising despite being stretched to the limit (on one day we were missing 18 members of staff through absence due to illness or isolation). Finally, you, the parents, carers and families of Harriers have continued to be supportive, kind and have followed all the procedures we have asked you to follow... even when you weren't sure which door your child was coming out from or which gate to exit through!

Mrs Goulding, who is leaving today after 15 years at Harriers, said this week that Harriers is a special place. It is, and that is down to the wonderful staff, pupils and community. Thank you.

We have been very sorry to say our goodbyes to Mrs Goulding this week. She has been at Harriers for her entire teaching career so far, and she has become an outstanding, naturally gifted, hard working teacher and leader. She has had a massively positive impact on Harriers and we will miss her greatly as she moves to a school nearer her home so she can spend more time with her family, after giving so much to her Harriers family.

We obviously said goodbye to our wonderful Year 6s today. They have been an absolutely amazing year group and they have made fantastic memories at Harriers. They have had to be resilient over the past year or so, like all our pupils, but they have come through these challenges admirably and I am sure they will all do brilliantly in their future endeavours.

We also say a fond farewell to Mr Grant, who has been our caretaker this year. Mr Grant, whose family has a long history with Harriers, has given his all to ensure Harriers is an organised, safe environment for all our pupils and staff. Mr Grant is moving into a post in teaching Engineering, which is his passion.

We are now really looking forward to moving into the new school year with less restrictions and a more normal school life. We had a taste of it today with our first whole school assembly of the year (albeit outside!) and the return of our end of year treat, the ice cream van! Over the

summer, I will be in touch to confirm our Covid guidelines for September. As already mentioned, they will hopefully be drastically reduced.



It will be good for all the pupils and staff to get back to normal, but it will take a bit of getting used to and we all want to get back to the high standards we set for ourselves pre-Covid. For a start, it will be great to see all the pupils in their correct uniform and PE kit come September. If any of you are purchasing the new PE kit through Cross Embroidery, then we have been advised that the sizing of the tracksuit is coming up small, so it is really important you either go a size or two up, or you try on a sample at Cross Embroidery. Unfortunately, the price does increase if your child does need an adult size, mainly due to VAT, but we have worked with Cross Embroidery to keep the price as low as possible. We received a sample of the new T-shirt today and it looks great, as you can see below.



I hope all of you have a lovely summer holiday and we look forward to seeing you again in September.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read 'Alex Pearson'.

Alex Pearson
Executive Principal