



# Dashwood Banbury Academy

an Aspirations Academy

Growing together; succeeding together

Sarah Gordon-Weeks – Principal

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04 September 2023

Dear Parents and Carers,

I would like to wish you a very warm welcome back to a new school year. We are excited to welcome back existing pupils and families as well as new. I hope that you have had a lovely summer break; the staff have been in preparing for your return and we are looking forward to another great year at Dashwood, full of trips and events both at school and within the community.

It is important to inform you that Dashwood has undergone the relevant RAAC (Reinforced Autoclaved Aerated Concrete) survey, in line with government guidance, and no evidence has been observed and pupils will return as normal tomorrow. Children in Cherry, Plum, Peach and Pear have their own start dates.

Our priority is to ensure that the pupils feel happy and safe at school. We will therefore be focusing on fostering their sense of self-worth, one of our three guiding principles, by ensuring they all feel valued and respected in their classes. We will also be supporting the development of positive relationships with peers as well as with their teacher and teaching assistants so that all of our pupils feel they have a trusted adult to talk to if they ever need to. We are really looking forward to our Cultural Day on Friday 29<sup>th</sup> September where all the pupils are invited to dress in clothes that represent them as individuals: their culture, relation and heritage. We discuss our similarities and differences as well as celebrate our diverse Dashwood Community. It is certainly one of the highlights of our calendar!

I have attached the Term 1 dates link again from the school website for your information. You are able to collect a paper copy of this if you need one from the office. **Please note the New and Different Meetings for each year group that start on Wednesday.**

<https://dashwood.academies.aspirationsacademies.org/wp-content/uploads/sites/8/2023/07/Term-1-Dates-2023.pdf>

I am sorry to have to change the tone of this letter but I wanted to keep you updated about an incident that happened over the summer break on the Dashwood site. It saddens me to inform you that Dashwood was subjected to some quite severe mindless vandalism. Unfortunately, it has meant that our big red bus and minibus have had to be removed from the site due to the severity of damage as well as the destruction of some of our sports equipment. The site team and members of staff have worked hard to ensure that the site is safe and ready to welcome you all back for which I am grateful for. The police were informed of the incident and I am continuing to communicate with them. It is really important that when these things happen we are all extra vigilant within our community to ensure that we report anything that we deem to be suspicious in order to keep our communities safe and pleasant places to live, work and play.



Talk4Writing

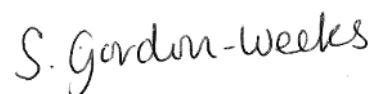


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Returning to school can come with mixed feelings; one of excitement and increased anxiety for both children and parents. Please, as always, do not hesitate to pop in and see us if you, or your child, needs a little extra support returning to school.

Just a reminder that we do have second-hand blazers of all sizes for sale for £5 in the office as well as lots of other uniform - come and see us to have a look.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "S. Gordon-Weeks". The script is cursive and fluid, with the first letter 'S' being large and prominent.

Sarah Gordon-Weeks  
Principal