



7th September 2016

Dear Parent / Carer,

This letter is to introduce myself to you as new Headteacher of Sarah Bonnell School and share some key reminders about the new school year.

I am joining Sarah Bonnell with 30 years' experience as a teacher and leader. Most recently I was Associate Headteacher at an outstanding academy for girls in Hackney where my key responsibilities were developing the quality of teaching and the leadership of whole school improvement. I was also the director of a successful Teaching Schools' Alliance in Hackney leading on collaboration to improve achievement for children within and beyond the nineteen alliance schools.

I feel very privileged to be joining a school with so many strengths and I am looking forward to working with you, and the whole school community, to build on these for the future success of the students here and in the Newham Community Schools Trust. I have received a warm welcome from staff and students this week and have been impressed with the positive attitudes, learning and behaviour I have seen so far. The school motto 'Be Proud. Aim High. Work Hard. Be Nice. No Excuses' can be seen in the way people behave and I am sure this will continue to have a great impact on learning and progress.

I began the new school year celebrating the success of another year of outstanding GCSE results at Sarah Bonnell. Overall, 65% of students achieved A*-C in GCSE English and Maths. The English results are particularly impressive, with 89% achieving A* to C. In the new measure brought in by the government this year our school achieved an Attainment 8 score of 5.44. I would like to extend a well-deserved message of congratulations to these girls and their families and wish them all the very best for the next stage of their learning.

The new school year has started very well and I would like to thank you for your support in making sure your daughter is in school every day, on time, with the right equipment and wearing the correct school uniform. This will help ensure that she is ready to learn and support her in making the most of her opportunities here. At Sarah Bonnell wearing full and correct uniform shows pride in belonging to the Sarah Bonnell community. Please check the school website and school app for details of the school uniform if you need further information.

Please note that on Monday 12 September the school will be closed to students and staff for Eid-ul-Adha. 'Eid Mubarak' to all those in the school community who will be recognising this religious observance and I look forward to seeing everyone in school on Tuesday 13 September 2016 as usual.

Headteacher: Rae Potter

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Please also be aware that the price of a standard school meal will be increasing to £2.10 from Tuesday 13 September 2016. Over the last year the school worked very closely with our catering providers to improve the quality and variety of food on offer and I would like to reassure you that we will continue to ensure that this represents good value for money.

I look forward to meeting you in person in the coming months and thank you in advance for your continued support of the school.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Rae Potter".

Ms Rae Potter - Headteacher

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