

21 May 2024

Dear Parent/Carer

### Headteacher Introduction

I am writing to introduce myself as the new Headteacher of Stocksbridge High School. I will officially become the Headteacher in September 2024, but I will be on site and working with Mr Ireland and the rest of the school community from mid-June to ensure a smooth transition and to provide the opportunity to meet with and speak to as many students, parents/carers and staff as I possibly can in the final few weeks of this academic year.

I am incredibly honoured to have been given this responsibility and cannot wait to get started on our journey together. I hope that by writing to you now I can begin to build strong and lasting relationships for the benefit of the young people in our care.

I recognise that it is important for parents/carers and students to know the person that will be overseeing their education and, when I have the opportunity, I will be holding assemblies with all year groups to talk to students about my background and the values I have for their education and development. But I thought I would write to parents/carers now to share that same information and ethos.

I have worked in education for my entire career and began as a Science Teacher twenty years ago in a large secondary school in Peterborough. I then moved back to South Yorkshire in 2005; I lived on Manchester Road in Deepcar, and then moved onto Garden Village just down from the leisure centre in 2008. Living in the catchment area for Stocksbridge High School for 14 years, I got to know this community and its' people well before moving again in 2019. It is my pleasure now to return to the community to serve those same people and their families.

Throughout my career I have always valued the importance of aspiration and achievement, and a quiet determination to always 'do our best'. I have worked in a number of schools across South and West Yorkshire as I progressed into leadership positions, but always with the intention of improving outcomes for young people to provide better life chances and opportunities. As a senior leader, I have specialised in this passion and helped secure record-breaking results whilst at the same time supporting students to develop as people and contributors to society as a whole.

As Headteacher of Stocksbridge High School, our mission will be:

“All students have the opportunity to grow academically, socially, morally and spiritually to ensure that when they leave our care every door to a potential future remains firmly open”.

We will continue to embody the core values of 'Believe, Achieve, Succeed' as these incorporate everything that we are looking to implement. We will continue to build an inclusive school community that focuses on students, staff, the community, and the legacy of the school:

**Believe:**

- We will generate belief in students through personal development, raising aspirations and self-respect, and encouraging all students to pursue their dreams.
- We will develop belief from the community by engaging key stakeholders in every aspect of school life and working together to create a world-class learning environment for their children.

**Achieve:**

- We will have a relentless and unapologetic focus on the outcomes of students to ensure that they achieve their dreams.
- We will improve the life chances of the community by creating a generation of high achieving young people that can drive industry and entrepreneurship, both locally and further afield.

**Succeed:**

- We will recognise and celebrate success for students daily, with a positive learning culture.
- We will be a successful school that is the choice of parents/carers both locally and further afield.

The contribution and support from parents/carers and the community is a crucial factor in the success of all schools, so we will be looking to facilitate this for parents/carers in a number of different ways:

1. We will be looking to establish a Parent/Carer' Forum in the new academic year. This will be a group of parents/carers who would like to be part of the decision-making process of the school. Supported by an Assistant Headteacher, the forum will meet on a regular basis to discuss plans for development, issues arising and a chance to give supportive suggestions on how the school can continue to improve. We will shortly be writing to parents/carers to invite applications to join this forum.
2. We will be conducting stakeholder surveys in the summer term. This is an opportunity for me, as the new Headteacher, to gain a comprehensive overview on many different areas of the school. Both parents/carers and students will have an opportunity to talk about the areas of strength within the school and give opinions on potential changes and improvements.

3. As discussed earlier, I would like to have the opportunity to meet with as many parents/carers and students as I can during the summer term. With this in mind, we will host three 'Meet the new Headteacher' informal coffee sessions. Places will be limited as this event will be designed to be a more personal discussion rather than a presentation; if places fill quickly due to demand, we will look to offer more times. The dates and times of the planned coffee sessions are below:

- **Tuesday 2 July 2024, 9am – School library**
- **Thursday 5 July, 1pm – School library**
- **Tuesday 9 July, 4pm – School library**

To book a place on one of these sessions, please contact Hannah Taylor, PA to Headteacher on [htaylor@stocksbridge-mlt.co.uk](mailto:htaylor@stocksbridge-mlt.co.uk) or 0114 2883153.

I hope this letter acts as a suitable introduction prior to my start and I will of course write to you again in due course after I have formally started.

Yours faithfully



Mr B Gilder  
Headteacher, September 2024