

15<sup>th</sup> July 2021

Dear Parents, Carers and School Community,

First of all, may I thank you for your generous welcome over this unusual and at times difficult year. As I approach almost my first year as Headteacher at this amazing school I need to pass on my gratitude for your patience, kindness and support in enabling your child to continue their learning when we have been directed to or when I have had to make the difficult decision to isolate zones or classes. I have been particularly impressed by the community spirit within the school, where staff, their families and yourselves have pulled together in times of need to help all members of our school community when times have been tough. Whilst I am immensely proud of so much at Ysgol Heol Goffa, I do have one regret, in that I have been unable to get to know each one of you and your families and to continue to build upon a real community spirit. External factors outside of our control have made open evenings, transition events, sports days, concerts and performances an impossibility, and whilst we have endeavoured to host some of these remotely, none of these have been in the way that any of us would like.

It is important that my passion and vision for Ysgol Heol Goffa are still explicit to you all: The pupils, families, staff and community are vitally important to me. I will do everything in my power to try and do what is right for each and every individual. Despite current challenges and difficult decisions having to be made, ensuring the wellbeing and education of every pupil will always be the most important thing that I and all the staff here do. Supporting the families along the way, is of equal importance.

As we move forward into a new academic year and continued uncertainty my hope is that we can continue to grow as a supportive community and finally begin to return to some form of normality.



Due to the unknown of the coming months, the approach of lifting our health and safety measures at Heol Goffa will be a slow one, where we reflect and review frequently. The safety of pupils, staff and the community is paramount and I will not allow us to move at a pace that jeopardises our safety. Pupils will continue to enter the school through their current zone entrances and continue to work within zones. We will be reintroducing our fantastic and much needed therapeutic approaches across the school that we have been limited in providing this year. Staff will continue to test twice weekly using the LFT system and pupils who are secondary age are invited to continue to do this too if they so wish. I thank you in advance for your support in ensuring our pupils, staff and school community remain as safe as possible.

It would be remiss of me not to mention that this term we say goodbye to 2 of our senior school pupils, Samina and Olivia and also a long standing member of staff Mrs Bridget Radford who has brought her own special and sparkly level to the school for 18 magical and musical years. We wish all our leavers a happy and successful future and we look forward to hearing the wonderful things that they will go on to achieve.

All this leaves me to say, is that I wish you all a happy, safe and fun summer. I am crossing my fingers for lots of sunshine and dry weather so we can make the most of the beautiful place in which we live.

I look forward to welcoming you and our new pupils back into school on Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> September.

Kind regards and stay safe,



Miss Ceri Hopkins

