



Ref:SM/CS/EndofTerm

Thursday 15 December 2022

Dear Parent/Carer,

## **RE: END OF AUTUMN TERM 2022**

As we approach the end of term, I wanted to provide some updates on the academy.

### **Thank you**

Firstly, thank you for the warm welcome myself and Charlie have received since joining the academy in September. While I'm mainly working behind the scenes, I know Charlie appreciates the support and team working she's received from families. We know we are only at the start of our improvement journey and are grateful for your support.

Secondly, thank you to everyone who was able to attend Parents and Carers Evening last week, I hope you enjoyed the opportunity to meet staff and it was great to receive positive feedback from so many of you.

### **Staffing update**

At the end of term some staff members will be moving on to pastures new and we will be joined by some new members of the team in January.

Mr Jones and Mr Spalding will both be moving on to new opportunities, we thank them both for their hard work and commitment to the school during a very challenging year. Mr Whitlingum and Miss Morrison will also be leaving us, and we wish them well in their new roles. In our support staff Miss Stolikova and Mr Fernandes will be moving on to promoted roles in other schools and we wish them every success.

In January Ms Zoe Kirby will be joining the academy as Interim Deputy Principal while we advertise for a permanent post holder. Mrs Rachel Hebblewhite and Mrs Kiera Brueseke-Palmer will be joining the academy as Alternative Provision and Primary Phase Leaders. All three bring a wealth of experience in special education with them and we look forward to working with them. Mrs Rehana Kauser, and Mrs Katrina Tomlinson have joined the leadership team as Middle and Upper Phase leaders.

Ms Kirby will be leading our Pastoral Team. We are pleased that we have now appointed two Learning Mentors for Pastoral Support, Mrs Tanya Briggs and Mr Deke Ringrose, who start their roles in January.

### ***Medeshamstede Academy is part of the Greenwood Academies Trust Group of Academies***

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## **Academy dates**

A reminder that the academy will be closed to students for staff training on Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> and Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> January 2023. Students return on Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> January.

All staff will be undertaking two days of TEACCH training which will upskill them in structuring the Learning Environment, schedules and work systems so that they are better able to support autistic learners.

## **Behaviour**

This term has seen an overall improvement in student behaviour, however, there is still a lot of work to be done in this area. The academy is generally calmer, and more students are engaged in learning activities. We will continue to work with staff, students and their families where they are finding this difficult.

Thank you for your ongoing support with respecting our safeguarding procedures around mobile phones being handed in to the office and with addressing swearing and unacceptable behaviour.


## **Attendance**

Overall student attendance to school is 82% which is well below government expectations. We understand that there have been lots of illnesses circulating this autumn, but we do need families to do all they can to ensure students attend school as much as possible.

If you need support with attendance, please speak to your child's class teacher in the first instance. Our pastoral team are also here to help.

Finally, I'd like to wish all of our students, families and staff a well-earned and restful break and we can't wait to see you all in the new year.

Yours sincerely,



Mrs S Martin  
**Executive Principal**