



Dear Parents and Carers,

As our school year draws to a close, I would like to express the pride I feel at being able to lead Kite Ridge School. It is an honour to work with each of our students and an absolute privilege to share in their achievements, however small. Our students face many challenges daily and I am continually amazed at how resilient they are. Their successes would not be possible without your support, and I am grateful for the working relationships we have which enable us to support the students holistically.

This year we are saying goodbye to two students. Seeing them grow, both academically and in confidence, has been wonderful and knowing we have provided them with essential skills for life after Kite Ridge is very rewarding. We say goodbye to our Head Boy who has been with us for 8 years, having joined us in year 7, and has been a role model for younger students. We also say goodbye to another student who is moving overseas after 5 years at Kite Ridge. Whilst we will miss them dearly as part of our school community, we wish them every success.

Looking to the new academic year, we are excited to welcome our new student intake and look forward to helping them settle and adjust to their new surroundings.

We will have some building and maintenance work going on in school over the summer holidays, including the construction of a fixed canopy / shelter over one of our outdoor swings. This structure will be a most welcome addition to our school and will enable the swing to be used in all weathers for vital sensory regulation.

### **School life**

The final half term of the year has been another busy one. The students have been working well on their individual targets and our topic for the term has been A Midsummer Night's Dream. We have incorporated music, food tech, art and drama around the play which has been very successful. We have managed to have several outdoor picnics and café sessions over the term, when the weather has been kind!

### **Staff news**

Charlotte joined us as an Assistant Learning Mentor at the end of May. She has settled in really well and has spent time getting to know all the students.

Ali joined us as a permanent Learning Mentor a few weeks ago. Ali has worked with us in the past on a casual basis, but is now with us full time. Both students and staff were delighted to have Ali as a permanent member of our school community.

Iqra has worked with us for a number of months as an agency worker. We are delighted that she will be joining us as permanent Learning Mentor from September.

Last week we had an assembly to celebrate some long service awards. Andy, our Music Therapist, reached his 10-year anniversary with us in 2020 but we have only just been able to celebrate this and mark the occasion. Carly, our Business Manager, has now been with us for 10 years. The Chair of our Management Committee presented Andy and Carly with gold kite badges to mark this milestone. We thank them both for their continued hard work and dedication to our school.

**Dates for your diary**

School closes for the summer break on Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> July at the usual time of 3pm. We will welcome students back to school on Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> September.

Term dates for the next academic years, 2024-25 and 2025-26, can be found on our website.

I wish you all a wonderful summer and hope the weather is kind to us.

With very best wishes,

*Steven Sneesby*

Headteacher