



Ryecroft C.E. (C) Middle School

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Headteacher: Miss R. Baramuszcak

8th September 2017

Dear Parents,

It has been lovely to welcome the pupils back this week and to meet the Year 5's again. Pupils have settled down well and I am very impressed to see the number of credits that have already been issued in the first week. This shows that pupils are engaged in their learning and making positive progress, which is so pleasing to see.

I would like to take the opportunity to inform you of some changes and general information as we near the end of the first week.

We have spoken at length with all pupils so that they know who to contact, should they encounter a problem, but I would also like to share this information with Parents so that matters can be dealt with swiftly and effectively. In KS2 (Yr. 5 and 6), Miss Alston is the new Pastoral Manager who has taken over from Mrs. Parkin and Mr. Hughes has been appointed to the role of KS3 (Yr. 7 and 8) Pastoral Manager. The office will direct you to these key members of staff in the first instance to discuss queries and problems. You may also wish to speak to your child's Form Tutor. These are listed below as a reminder:

Arkwright 1 – Mr. Johnson

Arkwright 2 – Mr. Brown

Heywood 1 – Miss Starkey

Heywood 2 – Mr. John

Sheldon 1 – Mrs. Doyle/Mr. Bardon

Sheldon 2 – Mrs. Thornton/Mr. Hall

There have also been some set changes that may affect your child this year. Pupils in Year 5 are taught in mixed ability groups and have a main designated class teacher, except in Science, P.E, Music and some French where they are taught by specialists. Year 6 are taught in the same way but they have been moved into ability groups. Pupils are currently undertaking a range of baseline assessments which may result in further set changes depending on the results.

In Year 7, pupils have predominantly remained in the same groups as last year but there have been a small number of set changes based on end of year grades and group sizes. Due to the very small number of pupils in Year 8 and the gender imbalance in classes last year, we have created mixed ability groups so that classes are balanced, in terms of gender and numbers.

Groups in Year 7 and Year 8 will also have the opportunity to choose an 'option' lesson that will take place on Friday afternoon. This is a new addition to the curriculum and will give your child the chance to experience and enjoy something very different from the standard provision. The option block will run until Christmas, after which they can choose another experience to try.

The arrangements in each of the year groups have been made to promote an environment that supports pupils learning. Please be assured that irrespective of whether your child is in 'set' or 'mixed ability' classes, their learning experience will be tailored to their needs. Hopefully, these groups will

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challenge and support pupils both academically and socially. We will review all groups at half term and adjust your child's set if necessary. You will be informed if your child is affected.

As you know at Ryecroft pupils are allocated lockers. We made the decision to have these adapted so that they can be secured with a padlock. We had arranged for this and for some additional new lockers to be installed over the school summer holidays. Unfortunately this was unavoidably delayed and consequently has resulted in some pupils having to share a locker. However, I have been assured by our supplier that this will shortly be resolved with all new locks and lockers in place for week commencing Monday 18th September. In the coming weeks, we will ask pupils to bring in a padlock or purchase one from reception. For pupils in Year 7 and Year 8 who have not received their locker key deposits from the old school, the school will provide a padlock on request.

Finally, Ryecroft Middle School has submitted an application form to convert to an academy and be part of the Uttoxeter Learning Trust. This application expresses a level of interest in conversion and does not mean that it will automatically go ahead. Details will follow shortly regarding the consultation period and meetings that will be scheduled to provide further information about this process.

I wish your child every success this academic year and look forward to celebrating their journey.

Yours sincerely,



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Headteacher

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