



Highfields School

Co-Headteachers: Mr P R Cole & Mr B P Riggott



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Our ref: AM/JAW

June 2018

Dear Parents/Carers

In September I will take over as headteacher at Highfields School. I am writing to introduce myself, outline my approach and enlist your support.

I have been a teacher since 1994 and have worked in a range of schools including high challenge schools in South London, The BRIT School of Performing Arts and Dronfield Henry Fanshawe School, judged outstanding in all categories by Ofsted. I have two children (Oscar, 12 and Harriet, 8) and try my best to be a good dad. I am a musician by training but have taught a number of subjects including English, which I will continue to teach at Highfields. I therefore bring a deal of valuable experience to this role but I remain a lifelong learner who aims to discover new things every day and to learn from others wherever I can.

I feel very privileged to join a school with so many strengths. Both students and staff speak warmly about the school and about their commitment to its inclusive ethos. This and other strengths are due in no small measure to the leadership of Mr Riggott and Mr Cole; I would like to recognise their achievements and thank them for their generosity in helping me to settle into this role.

I have one aim: **to give students the attributes, skills and knowledge they need to thrive in a changing world.** Our children will need to be emotionally resilient, highly creative, flexible and quick to learn (the school's 5 Rs frame these attributes nicely) if they are to find rewarding roles in a jobs market which looks set to be permanently reshaped by technology and automation.

As a pianist I know that truly exciting pieces can only be attempted when the basics (scales and arpeggios) have been mastered. In the same way I have found that students only feel secure enough to take creative risks, have fun and be brilliant when the adults around them create clear expectations which are consistently applied. I therefore expect children to arrive at school on time and in uniform which matches exactly our policy; to aid clarity reminders are currently being issued by school leaders. I also expect students to be courteous and kind to staff and to each other and to take responsibility for their own learning whether in the classroom or completing homework. In return I will build on Highfields' strengths to further ensure it is a school where students and staff can be the best they can.

In all matters your children's interests are at the centre of my every decision. I have the very highest ambitions for your children and will not rest until Highfields School routinely produces students who outstrip expectations.

I will communicate with you regularly through the newsletter and will update you on important issues as and when they develop. Please look out for a survey where you can contribute views on the school's improvement priorities. In the meantime I would like to wish you and your children a restful and enjoyable summer.

Yours sincerely

Andrew Marsh

This is a good school. Ofsted, May 2017

A good school with an outstanding Sixth Form. Ofsted, October 2012

