



Diss High School

Headteacher: Mr S Stopps

4th September 2023

Dear Parents and Carers,

Introduction as the new Headteacher/RAAC update/uniform

I hope this letter finds you well and that you and your family were able to enjoy a relaxing summer holiday. I am very pleased to introduce myself as the new Headteacher of Diss High School and I am looking forward to becoming a part of this wonderful school community.

I wasn't expecting my first comments to you to be on the subject of concrete but you may be aware from media coverage that the government has asked some schools to close or partially close due to the presence of reinforced autoclaved aerated concrete (RAAC) in their school buildings. We understand that this is an unsettling news story and that it may naturally have led you to wonder about the safety of our school building. I'd like to reassure you that we have had no such communication from the government and therefore Diss High School will be fully open to students from Wednesday 6th September onwards (Thursday 7th September for Year 13). Although we are expecting the next few days to be warm, we expect students to attend in their full school uniform rather than PE kit. As Headteacher I will of course review our uniform policy at some point this year.

I am grateful to Dr Hunt that she facilitated me spending a little bit of time getting to know some of the staff and students in the summer term - there is a lot to be proud of at Diss High and I look forward to getting to know the school inside and out over the next few weeks and months. It is clear to me that Diss High plays an important role in the life of the local community of Diss and the surrounding villages. I was fortunate enough to spend some time last month going around Diss and visiting local business owners and residents – I want our students to be proud of their local community and the Diss community to be proud of them.

Our motto will be “work hard, be kind” and the students will be hearing lots about these two core values. We want to make sure that every student experiences daily success and that we properly recognise and celebrate effort and achievement. We also want to make sure that no learning time is lost due to poor or disruptive behaviour and we will be making exceptionally clear to all students what our non-negotiable standards of behaviour are so that there is no confusion or inconsistency.

In my opening assembly to students I will be emphasising American author Robert Collier's wise words that “success is the sum of small efforts, day in day out” and I would encourage you to find the time to discuss daily with your child(ren) what they have done each day that they are pleased with. We want every child to experience some form of success every day that they attend Diss High. Open communication is essential to a successful partnership, so please know that we are an approachable school who values the contributions our parents and carers make towards the successes of our students. I eagerly anticipate the opportunity to meet with as many of you as possible during various school events, parent-teacher meetings, and informal gatherings.

The start of a new school year marks a fresh chapter in the lives of our students no matter what has gone before. All of us at Diss High School are committed to fostering a positive learning environment that equips our students with the skills they need to excel academically and socially. We look forward to working in partnership with you to achieve this outcome.

Yours faithfully,
Sam Stopps
Headteacher

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