



Dear Parents and Carers,

10th September 2018

This is my first letter of the academic year. For those of you new to the school I write to parents fortnightly, sending letters via email and uploading on to the school website. We have welcomed record numbers of Year 7 students to the school and also have had 15 students joining us in different year groups - our school continues to grow!

We have had a fantastic start to the term, students have been excellent, and we have really enjoyed our first few days. We spent time as a group of staff on our training days preparing for the term ahead. With staff and students I spent time talking about our school vision which can be summarised below. I reflected that we should as a community reflect on if we have met these expectations every day, making our best efforts to meet these expectations. I encouraged students to talk about this at home too so I do hope that they have done this.



I wanted to thank you for making sure that your children have everything they need for school. The vast majority of students had all of their equipment and uniform for their first day and we supported any learners who needed items. This sets students up so well to learn and not have barriers in the way of their learning. Parent partnership is so important, and if you would like to contact me at any time you can do so on VWhitcombe@castlemanor.org.uk or by telephoning the school and talking to my PA, Ms Mitchell.

Samuel Ward Academy Trust is a charitable company limited by guarantee and registered in England and Wales with company number 07400386. The registered office is at Samuel Ward Academy, Chalkstone Way, Haverhill, Suffolk, CB9 0LD.

Headteacher: Mrs. Vanessa Whitcombe



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Thank you also for ensuring that your child attends school every day and avoiding holidays or unnecessary appointments during school time. We do understand that medical appointments are sometimes not under your control, and will happily support these but do require evidence. Our attendance team Mrs Freds and Mrs Dobell are available to talk or meet, please do contact the school if you would like to meet them. Absence reporting is really important and we will make home visits if we do not hear from you, so please do let us know if your child is not at school.

We have some evening events for different year groups coming up over the coming weeks -

1. Year 7 Settling in evening - 13th September at 6pm.
2. Year 8 & Year 9 Kickstart evening - 27th September at 6pm.
3. Year 10 & Year 11 Kickstart evening - 4th October at 6pm.

Finally one of our students has over the summer been selected to attend the International Community Experience through Guiding, this is following her being awarded the prestigious Baden Powell Award for Guiding earlier in the year. Emily has to raise funds for this trip and has a justgiving website. If anyone would like to donate to support Emily she would very much appreciate it. The site is <https://www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/emily-eaton> Many of our students take part in different activities outside of school and we sometimes do not know about it, please do let us know of these achievements so that we can celebrate and support.

I look forward to seeing Year 7 parents on Thursday and other year groups over the coming weeks

Yours sincerely,

Vanessa Whitcombe
Headteacher

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