



12 March 2020

Dear Parent/Carer

I would like to firstly take this opportunity to thank you for your support over the past two months since I took up the post of Headteacher at Whitstone School. It has been a busy time and one which has seen us make considerable progress. Our whole-school attendance figure has risen by 1% in eight weeks, our Year 11 students have engaged with our first proper mock exam week in an exemplary fashion and student behaviour in lessons is improving according to our school data and student feedback. I have had many conversations with parents which have been thoroughly enjoyable and productive. I look forward to having many more over the coming weeks and months.

It has also been a real pleasure engaging with the local community. There has been lots of engagement with our local primary schools, we have a community meeting taking place on the 16<sup>th</sup> March to look at ways of Whitstone School engaging with local groups and organisations and we introduced four new House Charities to support over the next eighteen months.

It is a really exciting time for our school and I am really appreciative of your support so far.

### **Non-Uniform Community Fundraising Day**

On Friday 20<sup>th</sup> March, we will be holding a non-uniform day to raise money for our four new House Charities. We would ask that each student (and member of staff) brings in £1 which will go directly to their particular House Charity. The four charities are;

Blackdown - Time is Precious - <https://timeisprecious.org/about/>

Mendip - Dorset and Somerset Air Ambulance - <https://www.dsairambulance.org.uk/>

Polden - Dorothy House - <https://www.dorothyhouse.org.uk/>

Quantock - STAR - Somerset Trust for Arts and Recreation - <http://www.somerset-star.org.uk/about/>

As part of our engagement with the local community, we will also be asking our students to bring in an item of food. This will be given to one of two worthy causes; either Shepton Mallet Foodbank or Grace Harris House. We have given information to our students during assemblies and tutor times regarding what sort of food would be suitable for these two organisations.

Please could I ask that you speak with your child regarding the importance of excellent behaviour for learning on this day, as is always the expectation at Whitstone School. It is also important that students come to school on this day in clothing which is respectful and appropriate.

I look forward to seeing you soon at one of our upcoming school events. As always, please do not hesitate to contact me should you wish to discuss any aspect of your child's education.

Yours faithfully

Mr Guy Swallow  
Headteacher