

Dear Parent/Carer,

I officially take up my post as the Interim Principal at Oasis Academy Brightstowe on the **28th February**. As you can imagine there has been a lot of work in the background to get us to this point and I'm excited to meet the students, community, and staff at the Academy over the coming weeks.

Currently I lead Hans Price Academy in Weston-super-Mare where I have been principal for nearly 8 years. I will retain executive oversight of Hans Price during my time at Oasis Academy Brightstowe, spending a day a week working in Weston-super-Mare.

The students at Brightstowe are one of our greatest strengths. I had the pleasure of meeting a variety of students recently and I very much look forward to accompanying them on the rest of their educational journey with us and look forward to seeing rapid progress in their studies.

The ethos that means we wish your child to "**Be Brave, Be Kind and Shine Bright**" remains at the core of what we do. Underpinning this is a **focus on excellent behaviour and high-quality learning and teaching**. We have set ourselves ambitious targets for Term 4 and beyond and are very much looking forward to achieving these.

One key element will be **increasing the sense of belonging** that students feel at the Academy. The first step on this journey is to ensure that **every student attends school, every day, on time and in full school uniform** – We are a team, so we need to dress as a team, in attire that is representative of our work culture.

Uniform - <https://www.oasisacademybrightstowe.org/about-us/uniform>

I expect that all Academy staff will provide challenge for students in both their learning and in the way they conduct themselves in lessons and around the Academy. Teachers should be able to teach, and all students to learn, in classes free from disruption and with a culture that actively works against discrimination.

We will continue to enforce high expectations in all aspects of Academy life. This includes the rules around **truancy from lessons, mobile phones** not being used in the Academy, **correct uniform, managing distractions** to their learning and not using **language which may cause offence**.

I believe that we are stronger when we work as partners in your child's education and would invite you to contact us to discuss their learning and the behaviours that will support that. We do not aim to be punitive in what we do and can assure you that the rules we have, and are rigorously enforcing, are there to enable your child to do their best, feel safe and focus on the learning at hand without distractions.

Interim Principal
Tony Searle

One of our targets is that during Term 4 we need attendance to improve to 96%. Students who miss 5% or more of their lessons decrease their chances of achieving grades 9-4 in their GCSE exams and attendance at school is fundamental to their progress. Attendance of 95% equates to missing an entire term's worth (8 Full weeks) of learning over the course of their 5 years with us and 80% attendance means they miss the equivalent of 1 full year of education. Clearly illness can take us and where it does, we would ask that you keep us informed on our attendance line of the reasons and duration of your child's absence.

Enclosed with this letter is detail around the expectations of uniform, attendance, and procedures for the way in which we use the academy and the facilities as well as the way we conduct ourselves during the day.

On **Wednesday 2nd March 2022** I would like to welcome you into the Academy, meet with myself and other staff. The meeting times are **5pm – 5.30pm, 5.30pm – 6pm and 6pm – 6.30pm.**

I do hope I have the opportunity to meet with you.

Kind Regards



Tony Searle
Interim Principal – Oasis Academy Brightstowe