

26 February 2020

Dear Parent/Carer

I am writing to thank you for all the support that I have received in my first six months as Headteacher at Merrill Academy. I am particularly grateful for the way that so many parents have responded positively to our increased focus on school uniform. External visitors, parents and the students themselves have all commented on how well presented they now are, and I have no doubt that the improvements we are seeing will help us to continue to develop a more positive environment for learning and a greater shared pride for our school.

You are also likely to be aware that we have received local, and some national, press coverage this week regarding a uniform issue. As I am sure you would expect, I take the privacy of our students very seriously and will never enter into discussions with journalists, or with any other third party, about an individual or a specific incident. One consequence of this is that when stories do appear in the press about our students we effectively have no right of reply, regardless of the facts of the case. That can be frustrating, but the safety and privacy of students remains my top priority at all times.

My staff and I are committed to continuing the school's improvement journey, and we know how important your support is as we move forward. Please do not hesitate to get in touch with your child's Form Tutor or their Head of House, or contact me directly, with any feedback or concerns. We are also always on the lookout for parents who would like to make a contribution as part of our PTFA or Local Governing Body, or in some other capacity – if this is something you would like to know more about then please do let me know.

Yours faithfully



Ms J Harlow
Headteacher