

AUTUMN TERM 2, 2025

As we come to the end of my first term as Head Teacher at The Heights I am keen to share with you the excellent progress that we are making as a school and plans for the next steps on our journey.

Organisational changes made at the start of the half term have had a huge positive impact. Pupils are much more settled and engaged in their learning. Form rooms are personalised for each group, fostering a sense of belonging.

Pupil numbers have increased and will continue to do so. In January we anticipate being at 75 with an additional Y7 form. We will continue to work with the Local Authority to reach our commissioned number of 80 pupils this academic year.

Perhaps our biggest achievement this term has been our engagement with external services. In the last six weeks alone we have worked with SISS teams ASD and CLL, educational psychologists, EPAS, EHCP team, Steve Brown ASD specialist, Hannah Hall behaviour specialist, school nursing team, BCFC well being Dave, Commando Joes, Dare2Dream, Mental Health in Schools Team, Solihull Parent Carer Voice and Local Police. All of these services are helping us to ensure that our students are getting fantastic support and opportunities.

HI-LIGHTS THIS HALF TERM

- School council elections and our first council meeting
- Visits from my dog Betty- she had such a positive impact on pupils- with some speaking more than we have ever heard!
- Visits from local partners including Councillor Jones
- Purchase of reading scheme Little Wandle for our pupils at the phonics stage
- Commencement of accredited ASD training for all staff
- Beginning of Careers curriculum for our Y9 students
- Overhaul and improvement of school rewards system
- Our first football match against another school team was scheduled but was rained off
- Successful Christmas visits for both Key Stages



STAFFING UPDATES

- Miss Daley returned following maternity leave as our resident creative lead
- Miss Holmes and Mrs Thomas leave us at the end of this term
- Mrs Langley, Mr Gordon and Mr McIntosh join us as teaching assistants in January
- We have begun recruitment processes for a maths and Y7 teacher. We will also be recruiting a new Deputy Head Teacher and KS 4 phase lead
- Mr Gyles and Mr Ady will leave us this week

COMING SOON

Along with Forward Education Trust we plan improvements carefully to ensure they are successful. Next half term expect a focus on the following areas:

- Swings- we finally have an installation date of mid January. We will also start to plan a comprehensive outdoor refurbishment
- Launch of our behaviour policy, this has been revised and will be discussed at our next SPCV session on 7th January Heights Behaviour and Relationships Policy.
- Further work on curriculum and assessment
- Attendance will continue to be a focus
- Well being and implementation of new interventions to support pupils
- Continued review of whole school communication charter to include Home-School agreements with families



SOLAR PANELS

The Heights has been selected to receive free solar panels- this is a national project with a small number of schools selected

They will deliver clean, renewable energy. lower our carbon footprint and reduce our energy bills.

Alongside this our Eco-Council with Miss Sturgeon will be launched.

A NOTE TO YOU ALL

Thank you to all parents and families for your positive welcome and fantastic support. It is a privilege and honour to be in this position of Head Teacher, this is a very special school with such thoughtful and expressive children. I hope you can see that I am developing an open and nurturing school for all of your amazing children- they are such a credit to you. I look forward to working with you all in 2026.

