



Dear Parent/Carer,

I hope you and your family have had an enjoyable summer holiday. As the school year begins, I would like to introduce myself as the new Headteacher of Nottingham Free School and update you on several changes within the wider staff body.

I feel privileged to be given the responsibility of leading our school through the next stage of its journey. I began my career in teaching over 20 years ago and much has changed in Education during that time. However, the core purpose of nurturing young people and enabling them to achieve their full potential remains the same. During the course of our inset days last week, myself and the staff team worked alongside our Chair of Governors, Dr Sally Coulton, and two of our parent governors, Ms Hannah Simpson and Mrs Atia Hyde, to revisit our ambitions for all of the young people in our care. To successfully achieve these ambitions, it is important that staff, school governors and our parents share the same vision for what we want our young people to achieve and become. With this in mind, I would like to share the outcome of that work with you:

**Our vision** is for every learner within our vibrant and diverse school community to experience transformative academic and personal growth. **Our ambitions** for our students are that they will have:

- The depth and strength of character needed to succeed and thrive in an ever-changing world.
- The academic credentials that will afford them choice in their future endeavours.
- A meaningful awareness and genuine appreciation of the global community to which they belong.

From my previous experience as a deputy headteacher for nine years at a large and thriving secondary school, I know that working in partnership with parents and carers is essential to ensuring that every child receives the education that they deserve. Further, as a parent of two school-aged children myself, I understand the value of parents being actively engaged in their child's learning journey. With this in mind, I will be holding a number of events over the coming weeks to provide parents and carers an opportunity to meet me and other members of the senior leadership team in person.

As I mentioned, there have been a number of changes to key roles within our school this year. Joining our academic middle leadership team are Ms Dirrane (Head of English), Miss Carter (Head of Maths), Miss Payne (Head of Geography) and Miss Burley (Head of Design Technology). Our pastoral leaders for each year group are Miss Cockayne (Year 7), Mr Wells (Year 8), Mr Baines (Year 9), Miss James (Year 10) and Miss Weston (Year 11).

The founding principles of NFS were quality and equality for every learner and I would like to reassure you that these principles will continue to be at the heart of everything that we do. Myself and all of the staff at Nottingham Free School are excited about the year ahead and we look forward to sharing the many achievements of your children with you.

Yours Sincerely,

Dr Simpson