

September 2024

Dear parents and carers,

Welcome to the new school year to you all and I would like to take this opportunity to wish a particularly warm welcome to our new parents and carers across all of our schools, especially in our three new schools: Henleaze Infant School, Henleaze Junior School and Ashton Gate Primary School. You will, I know, have received a considerable amount of information from your individual schools over the past couple of weeks. Going forward you can also expect to receive regular parent and carer newsletters from the Trust over the course of the academic year to keep you updated on Trust news and the collaborative work taking place across all of our schools.

It has been wonderful to welcome children back into our schools over the last two weeks and the usual buzz of activity has returned to our school corridors and classrooms. You may have noticed that a good deal of building and maintenance work has taken place on our school buildings over the summer holidays, not all of it obvious to pupils, but we are pleased to have made significant improvements and delivering a modern estate remains one of our key priorities for the year ahead.

We were delighted by the public examination outcomes released over the summer. We all know that outcomes are not the only defining feature of a great education, however it is really important that our students leave school with options available to them which will define their future; their examination results keep doors open! The secondary outcomes were among the strongest in the region at both GCSE and A level and we are particularly pleased that the progress made by our disadvantaged students showed significant improvement. My thanks to all of our staff who work so hard and, of course, to you as parents and carers for the support and commitment that you provide to your children.

The term has started well and all schools have worked hard to continue to improve their induction processes for staff and children. Change can be daunting for all ages whether that is starting in a new school in reception, year seven or year twelve or even as a new teacher or leader. The work we do to establish a warm and welcoming environment and to make sure that much needed information is provided takes a good deal of thought and effort. All schools have been working hard in support of that positive beginning but as ever we welcome feedback about the experiences of your children.

There are now over 950 staff across our schools and we are really looking forward to welcoming them all to our annual trust conference in November where the theme is Belonging. Recruitment and retention remains challenging for the education sector and we are really fortunate to have attracted so many brilliant new staff into our schools with

94 in total. We know that you, as parents and carers, will welcome them into our family of schools.

Finally I would like to take this opportunity to wish you and your families all the best for the academic year ahead and I look forward to seeing you and your children across our schools over the year ahead.

Best wishes,



Neil Blundell
CEO, Cathedral Schools Trust