



Dear Parent/Carer,

I am writing with an important update outlining the changes that have recently been made to further strengthen the leadership of our wider school community, most notably our SEND provision.

It is with heavy heart that I write to inform you that our current SENDCo, Mrs Brown, has decided to step down from this role with immediate effect. Mrs Brown has been integral in ensuring our SEND department is led and resourced in order for all our SEND learners and indeed their wider families, continue to receive the care, support and guidance that enables them to flourish in all aspects of our Suthers experience. I am delighted Mrs Brown will now take a full-time position within the English department, ensuring that she supports our highly enabled English team to transform the lives of students through the experiences they receive in their English lessons.

I want to reassure parents and carers that the transformative work which has taken place over the past 8 months by Mrs Brown and her strong team of Teaching Assistants provides us with a solid and stable bedrock that not only enables us to provide the high levels of pastoral care that you have come to expect from us here at The Suthers School, but will also help us secure our ambition for all learners, particularly those who have additional needs so that every student has the opportunity to develop both personally and academically through a broad, rich and highly ambitious curriculum.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Mrs Brown for her relentless hard work and commitment in developing a supportive and caring team who put children first. I am sure those of you who have worked closely with Mrs Brown will join me in wishing her well as she moves into the English team to take up her permanent role.

You will already be aware of the excellent practice that takes place in our SEND department and we are fortunate to have such highly enabled and passionate leaders and practitioners who care deeply for our children and the community we serve. After a rigorous process, I am delighted to inform you that, Miss Kelly Bentley, current Lead TA for SEND, has been successful in securing the position of Assistant SENDCo and begins her new role with immediate effect. Miss Bentley has been an integral part of the SEND team since the Suthers began in 2017 and will no doubt continue the excellent work that already exists whilst constantly focussing on enhancing and improving our provision with the rest of her team over the weeks and months ahead.

We are currently finalising our recruitment process for our new SENDCo and I will inform you of the successful candidate once we conclude our interview process over the coming weeks.

I would also like to take this opportunity to formally thank Mrs Donna Meats, one of our Teaching Assistants at the Suthers School for all her hard work over the past 4 years as she moves into a new role in another Trust school. Mrs Meats has worked tirelessly to support students throughout her time at The Suthers School and was an integral part of our support team during lockdown. Mrs Meats will leave us at half term and will be greatly missed by everyone here at The Suthers School and we send her off with our best wishes as she begins her new role.



I am delighted to welcome Kenya Watson who has been appointed as a Teaching Assistant and will be a great addition to the SEND team after half term.

Thank you for your ongoing support and commitment and if you do have any questions or require any further information regarding the SEND department then please do not hesitate to contact our Assistant SENDCo Miss Kelly Bentley,
KBentley@suthersschool.co.uk at your earliest convenience.

Yours faithfully,

Nic Watkin

Head of School

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