

17th July 2020

Dear Parent/Carer

I wanted to take this opportunity to write to you before I officially start my post of Principal in September. I want to reassure you that the college and, even more importantly, your child's education, is in very safe hands. I have taught for 20 years: within leadership teams in very successful schools in Hertfordshire and, more recently, at Impington Village College. Since my appointment I have been working closely with Mr Spencer and the leadership team over the past three months to prepare as fully as possible for September, and beyond.

In a pre COVID world I would have had the chance to meet with many of you over the past month so please let me take this opportunity to share a little bit of what matters to me and what I hope to develop further at Ely College. The educational success of every child is down to the quality of the wraparound care that each child should receive. Schools must provide a curriculum that inspires and challenges children to become self-motivated and reflective learners, to take a bedrock of knowledge and build habits that enables them to become successful and lifelong learners long after they leave our gates. School leaders and parents must work closely to share their knowledge of each child and provide a supportive environment where every child is safe, cared for, valued and learns how to interact with compassion.

Clearly September is going to present challenges for us all, but there are many solutions that we already have in place, that put us in a strong and secure position for the new academic year. For the answers we do not have yet, we will work feverishly (if you will pardon the pun) to be guided by our principles and find solutions that work for us all. We are rightly focussed on ensuring that children settle back down into lessons and the daily routines of school life, and this will be done through the lens that all children have done all they could to access work over the lockdown.

You will undoubtedly have many questions and I would urge you to share these with us – the combined efforts of us all will lead to a far better experience for our students. I cannot think of any greater responsibility that I am likely to face in my lifetime than to be charged with providing the best start in life for your children. Thankfully, with Mr Spencer, the superb leadership team, dedicated staff of Ely College and with your support, this is a shared responsibility and one in which we fully intend to succeed.

I am planning to hold a series of events in the Autumn term so that we can meet in person. Clearly, the possible forms this may take will need to be clarified over the summer and the first few weeks of term. In the meantime, may I direct you to a video of our new Student Ambassadors interviewing me: <https://youtu.be/0h1odZnpS3k> it is clear that this group alone will do a great job of holding me to account! I also encourage you to contact me with any questions that you may have; please email Mrs Bev Saddington at: bsaddington@elycollege.co.uk and I will do my very best to respond as soon as possible.

Wishing you all a safe and sunny summer break and look forward to seeing you in September.

Yours faithfully



Simon Warburton
Principal Designate

