



6 July 2020

Dear Parents and Carers

It is a privilege to write and introduce myself, as the next Headteacher of Kesgrave High School. I am delighted to have been appointed and will work with energy and enthusiasm to promote the best interests of our young people, our staff and our community. The pace of change in today's world means that it is essential that we set high standards for our students and give them opportunities to achieve, within and beyond the classroom. Along with a strong foundation of qualifications, students need to develop a wide range of skills to ensure that they can thrive in the world. This has never been more necessary than today.

I have worked in Suffolk for over 25 years, in a range of pastoral and curriculum roles. In all cases, where achievement has been greatest, high quality teaching and learning has been at the heart. I look forward to working with the staff at Kesgrave High School to ensure that our students continue to have the very best opportunities to achieve their potential.

I connect with you for the first time in the most unusual of educational landscapes. I am looking forward to joining Kesgrave High School and, as you would expect, have been working alongside the Senior Leadership to ensure a smooth transition from Mr Burgoyne. I would like to thank Mr Burgoyne for his long and dedicated service to school. As a visitor, I have been lucky to witness first-hand his energy and dedication to the school, its staff and its students. I wish him a happy and restful retirement; it will be well-deserved.

This has been a transition like no other, understanding the school now and how to chart its next chapter, in the face of the global pandemic. I am working closely with the school in the few weeks ahead to ensure that we communicate clearly with you our plans for September. As you may know, the government guidance for a return of all students to Secondary School was released late last week, and we will be adding our own contextual detail to this to ensure that we put in place a plan that appropriately balances safety for everyone with a high quality, meaningful educational offer for all our students. I will write to you in the next two weeks to make these plans clear.

I look forward to meeting you in the near future, though suspect, sadly, that in the first few months of my tenure this may well have to be virtually, rather than face to face; regardless of the form, I hope to build a successful relationship with you over the years ahead.

Yours sincerely

Miss Julia Upton