



NEW HEADTEACHER'S MESSAGE

A warm welcome from me.

I have always worked in the East Midlands, with a teaching career taking me from Leicestershire, Nottingham and then to Derby. I bring with me significant experience as a senior leader in a large successful multi academy trust.

I feel extremely proud to be Merrill Academy's new Headteacher. It's a great privilege to lead this school and my vision is to see it become a thriving learning community. I am also very passionate about Merrill Academy being a really happy place, where all students feel safe, are respectful and responsible. I am totally committed to creating a positive learning environment here for students and staff so that success is achieved by all.

I believe in starting as I mean to go on, and as a parent myself, my rationale has always been on how happy I would be for my daughter or son to be in a particular classroom.

My expectations and standards are high in every aspect of school life. Students need to be dressed smartly in the correct uniform, conduct themselves calmly around the academy, and behave well in lessons.

I believe that every single student in my school is entitled to a great education, irrespective of their background and the challenges they may face. I want every year 11 student to have a choice when deciding what to do next because their hopes and aspirations have been met. For this to happen the curriculum at Merrill Academy needs to be engaging, challenging and relevant for all our students. I will be working closely with staff to review and further improve our provision and enrichment opportunities. This will also include ensuring students have the opportunity to gain valuable life skills.

I believe that all students have the capacity to go the extra mile, and with perseverance and effort become confident and resilient learners. I want our students to fully understand the value of education and acquisition of knowledge in preparing them for life beyond school and successful futures. I truly believe that with hard work they can achieve anything.

Students at Merrill Academy deserve just as rich an experience as in any other school and I am determined that this will be the case. High expectations are a key factor in improving student aspiration and achievement.

What is also really important to me is getting to know the community and ensuring it has a voice, feels valued and listened to. Positive relationships need to be at the heart of everything we do and I'm keen to build these with staff, students and parents.

I am really looking forward to leading the staff and students to make Merrill Academy a fantastic school and learning environment.

Miss Harlow
Headteacher