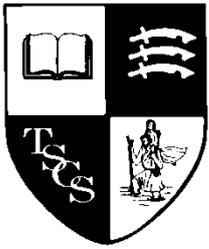


THE ST. CHRISTOPHER SCHOOL

SEN Trust Southend



Academy Trust - Special School

Mountdale Gardens, Leigh-on-Sea, Essex SS9 4AW

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To All Parents/Carers

5 September 2017

Dear Parents & Carers

Welcome to the new school year.

Pupils returned today and have settled remarkably well. There are now 226 pupils on roll with 29 new pupils and 10 new members of staff. The majority of the new pupils are in our early years groups, but we also have 3 new 16 – 19 students. I am sure they will continue to thrive and settle despite the occasional 'blip' as they get used to new routines and our ways of working.

You will see by the new letterhead above that the formation of the Multi-Academy Trust has gone ahead. We are now part of the SEN Trust Southend Multi-Academy Trust. This is a partnership between The St. Christopher School, Lancaster School, Kingsdown School and St. Nicholas School.

We had the first meeting of Trustees on Monday 4 September. I have been officially appointed as the Executive Headteacher for the SEN Trust and will be on the Trust Board. I am still officially the Headteacher of The St. Christopher School but due to the increase in work for the MAT, Miss Brown has also changed job description and is now Head of School at The St. Christopher School. This means that on a daily basis you will not see any outward change in procedures, however if I am out and about with my MAT responsibilities then Miss Brown will also be available for all contacts and queries. You will of course be able to talk or contact your class teacher/tutor in the first instance, but any major concerns can be passed to Miss Brown.

We also had a joint training session with the four schools on Monday where we all worked together to share ideas and practice. This was a very productive morning and ended with a bit of a 'fun' activity with all staff from the four schools (250 staff) barn dancing and having a very lively 'get to know you' session.

We look forward to working on our aims to:

- Create an outstanding community of schools working collaboratively across Southend and South East Essex to enable pupils/young people with special educational needs to achieve their best and to enable them to move on to independence, making the most of their abilities.
- To be able to share expertise, resources, training across the schools whilst maintaining the individual ethos, status and character of each school
- To provide a source of training, expertise and support for mainstream schools to enable the great majority of pupils with special educational needs to remain in mainstream provision, (where appropriate) and with the correct support.
- To work with our community to ensure our young people are included and accepted and are part of the life of Southend/South East Essex.



LOtC Mark (Gold)

Learning Outside the Classroom



Southend-on-Sea



CONSULTATION ON PROPOSED CHANGES TO SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS TRAVEL ASSISTANCE POLICY

As you may be aware Southend Borough Council is undertaking a review of all its passenger transport services. As part of this review, the Council is proposing some changes to its current policy that provides travel assistance for children and young people with special educational needs. The suggested changes and the proposed new policy can be found on the following website:

<http://www.southend.gov.uk/transportreviewconsultation>

If you have any feedback or comments on this proposal, please email normanjames@southend.gov.uk by **Friday 15 September 2017**.

ADVANCED NOTICE OF DATES

School Photos	Primary Pupils	Wednesday 20 September
	Secondary Pupils	Thursday 21 September
Primary Parents Open Evening		Wednesday 18 October, 6.00 – 9.00pm (A letter and appointment will be sent home nearer the time)

We are looking forward to another successful year following on from our 'outstanding' Ofsted report, with lots of events and activities for all our young people to enjoy and take part in.

Yours faithfully



Jackie Mullan
Headteacher