Atlantic Academy Portland
an Aspirations Academy

Miss Heppell - Principal

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Welcome Back to the New Academic Year

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope you and your families have enjoyed a happy and restful summer. We are looking forward to welcoming pupils back for an exciting and successful new academic year.

A particularly warm welcome goes to our new Year 7 pupils and their families joining the Atlantic community. Moving to secondary school is an important milestone, and we look forward to helping every new pupil settle in, build friendships and approach this next stage with confidence.

Thank you to everyone who shared news of pupils' holiday achievements through achievements@atlantic-aspirations.org. We are always proud to celebrate our young people's accomplishments, both in and beyond school.

Start-of-term arrangements

- Tuesday 1st and Wednesday 2nd September – INSET days; school closed to pupils
- Thursday 3rd September – Year 7 pupils only until 1pm
- Friday 4th September – all pupils return

Senior leaders and Pastoral Support Leaders will be at the gates from 8:10 a.m. each morning to welcome pupils. The gates close promptly at 8:30 a.m., so please ensure your child arrives in good time.

Beginning with Belonging Week

We will begin the year with **Belonging Week**, giving pupils time to reconnect, establish positive routines and reflect on the part they play within their House and the wider Atlantic community.

Through a range of activities, pupils will build relationships, explore our shared values and consider how we can work together to create a school in which everyone feels safe, respected and able to succeed.

As part of Belonging Week, all pupils **will take part in a Colour Run on Friday 11th September**. This will be a fun and energetic opportunity to strengthen friendships, celebrate our community and begin the year positively. Further practical information will be shared with families before the event.

Welcoming new colleagues

We are delighted to welcome the following skilled and experienced colleagues to our secondary team:

- Miss Dulston – Head of Performing Arts and Head of Castle
- Ms Lomas – Lead Practitioner in Mathematics
- Mr Gool – Head of History
- Mrs Holliday – Head of Modern Foreign Languages
- Mr Jowett – Year 7 Teacher
- Mr Bradley – Mathematics Apprentice Teacher
- Miss Gaillie – Pastoral Support Leader
- Ms Gaul – Design and Technology Technician

We are also very pleased to welcome Mrs Delage-Townsend and Miss Albin back from maternity leave. Mr Pete Broadchurch will join us as Assistant Principal after the October half-term.

These appointments followed rigorous recruitment processes in which our pupils played an important role. Our new colleagues bring valuable expertise and share our high ambitions for every pupil.

Additional pastoral support

In response to feedback from parents and pupils, we are introducing a new Pastoral Support Leader role this year. Each House will have a dedicated, non-teaching member of staff:

- Mrs Savage – **Chesil House**
- Mrs Hayton – **Church Ope House**
- Ms Gaillie – **Castle Cove House**

Our Pastoral Support Leaders will provide an additional layer of care and guidance for all pupils. They will be available throughout the school day to offer practical and pastoral support, helping pupils feel known, listened to and ready to learn.

Our priorities

This year, we will focus on:

- **Attendance:** Building on last year's encouraging improvement and working with families to ensure pupils attend regularly and arrive punctually.
- **Foundational knowledge:** Ensuring pupils securely master the essential knowledge and skills—including literacy, numeracy and key subject concepts—that prepare them for more advanced learning.
- **Achievement:** Providing excellent teaching so that every pupil achieves the outcomes we know they deserve.
- **Adaptive teaching:** Responding effectively to pupils' different starting points and ensuring those with additional needs can participate, progress and succeed.

Uniform and standards

We ask for your support in ensuring pupils return wearing the correct school uniform, carrying the necessary equipment and ready to learn. The policy is available on the website.

High standards of uniform, attendance, punctuality, conduct and effort help create a calm and successful learning environment. Staff will reinforce these expectations consistently and fairly while recognising pupils who make

positive choices. If your family needs support in meeting our uniform expectations, please contact us so we can discuss how we may be able to help.

Thank you for your continued trust and partnership. By working together and maintaining high expectations, we can make this a successful and rewarding year for every pupil.

We look forward to welcoming everyone back.

Yours faithfully,



Miss Heppell
Principal