

April 2024

Dear Parent/Carer,

**Update Regarding Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND)**

I would like to take this opportunity to share with you that Miss Bryan will be returning from maternity leave on Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> May to her post as SENDCo. Miss Bryan has enjoyed spending time with her young family and is now looking forward to returning to Whitcliffe Mount Academy to work with our SEND students and with the SEND staff team. Many of you will know Mr Clark who joined us in September 2023 and has been our temporary SENDCo in Miss Bryan's absence. We would like to thank Mr Clark for the fantastic job that he has done in ensuring that our students with SEND have remained supported throughout the academic year of 23/24 and are delighted that he will remain with us at school.

We acknowledge the importance of ensuring a smooth transition for such an important role in school to support our SEND students, parents and carers to adapt to the change in staffing and to get access to the support and guidance that they may need. Therefore, Mr Clark and Miss Bryan will work collaboratively from Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> May until Friday 24<sup>th</sup> May (May half term) before Miss Bryan picks back up the role of SENDCo at WMA independently. For any ongoing SEND referrals or support packages, these will begin moving from Mr Clark to Miss Bryan up to May half term so that an effective handover can take place. Any new SEND referrals that arise will go directly to Miss Bryan from 7<sup>th</sup> May 2024.

Mr Clark will remain at WMA as a lead practitioner and a teacher of mathematics and Miss Bryan as our SENDCo and teacher of humanities. Thank you, Mr Clark and welcome back Miss Bryan!

**Inspire & The Hub at WMA**

Since September, as you will be aware, we have developed the Inclusion provision at Whitcliffe Mount. This has given us the opportunity to broaden the support that we offer to our students to support them with their learning. Within 'The Hub', our Student Engagement and Wellbeing team have developed a bespoke curriculum to support students with SEND, those in need of additional support and/or those who are reintegrating into the Academy community following a period of absence. The personalised academic and pastoral support offered has helped to build students' confidence, access to the curriculum and sense of belonging at school. Mrs Dawe (Assistant Head for Inclusion) has led a dedicated team of staff who have supported over 57 students since it opened in September, and we are proud of the progress made in such a short period of time by all involved. Feedback about our inclusion provision has been positive from students, parents and staff and we will continue to develop the support available to ensure that we offer the very best service possible for all our students.

If you have any questions at all about the information shared, please do not hesitate to contact me so that I can advise accordingly. My email is [katie.bland@sharemat.co.uk](mailto:katie.bland@sharemat.co.uk).

Yours sincerely



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