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September 2022

Dear Parents and Carers

## Welcome to Cotham School

I am exceptionally proud to be Cotham's headteacher; it is such a special place and on behalf of the staff and Governors, I take great pleasure in welcoming you to our school. Cotham has an excellent reputation in Bristol built upon our creative and academic curriculum offer and an excellent GCSE and A Level examination record that is amongst the very best in the City. Our Sixth Form, the North Bristol Post 16 Centre, is thriving with over eight hundred students studying academic programmes taught between Cotham and Redland Green School. At Cotham, we take pride in the academic and personal success our students have achieved over the years and as a staff we work tirelessly and enthusiastically to secure the best possible achievement, outcomes, life chances and happiness for every student who joins our community.

At Cotham we wish to instil an enjoyment of learning in all our young people and you will find an unwavering commitment from all staff to the highest ambitions for your child. Our school culture is one where the full range of success – creative, sporting, academic, practical support for others and triumph over adversity is celebrated. All students benefit from the best trained and qualified staff and major investment in new facilities and resources. We offer a broad and balanced curriculum and a stimulating range of extra-curricular activities, trips and visits to support wider learning.

Achievement at Cotham is broad and whether through our extensive Visual and Performing Arts programmes, outdoor education and adventurous activities, sports or Sixth Form community service, we expect all students to contribute to the wider life of the school. Underpinning our educational philosophy is a nurturing of the development of the 'whole child' and future citizen and this is a core and integral part of the Cotham experience. The character, life skills and confidence to be gained from this approach are beyond measure in terms of their real-life application and we believe that excellence will be achieved by constantly challenging students, raising aspirations, and by insisting that good behaviour enables great learning. Our school community is a harmonious and respectful one where students are taught that with rights come responsibilities.

At Cotham we value the partnerships we have with families and the wider community and take pride in the fact that our school community reflects the diversity of Bristol. We value the quality of relationships that we build and the rich variety of backgrounds and experiences that our students bring to the school. At Cotham we seek to provide an education that both enables our students to gain university places of their choice and the skills needed to succeed in the workplace. Our ambition is for students to leave us well prepared for a globally changing future and ready to take their place in society.

Thank you for joining us on our Open Evening or on one of our Open Mornings. If you have any questions at all, we are here to help, please do not hesitate to contact the school or to ask in person.

Yours faithfully

**Ms Jo Butler**  
Headteacher



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