



Providing a life-enhancing education that develops the character, talents and potential of every child

ACHIEVEMENT ~ DIVERSITY ~ RESPECT

Headteacher: Ms Jo Butler

8 September 2023

Dear Parents/Carers

This is my first communication to you this year and I look forward to many more. Next week I will be sending out my usual weekly mailing with the video introduction but in the interim there are a few important messages below for you to digest ahead of the weekend.

### **Welcome to the Newest Members of our Cotham Community!**

We were delighted to welcome our new Year 7 cohort into Cotham this week. It was fantastic to be a part of the palpable excitement as our newest students met their tutors and experienced their first few days at Cotham. Students started their first day with a welcome from me before moving on to learn about school culture and the way things are done here at Cotham. Their first day culminated in a lovely assembly from Mr Dunkley and Mr Knight reminding them that they can be anything they want to be. The lessons that Year 7 have been to so far have resulted in some fabulous feedback and we look forward to the class of 2028 showing us how amazing they can be on their journey through Cotham.

### **Welcome to New Key Student-Facing Staff**

#### Mrs Anilla Khan, Assistant Headteacher

Mrs Khan was appointed as our new Assistant Headteacher last term, replacing Mr Watts who has moved on to a new school in Stroud. Anilla joined Cotham and the Senior Leadership Team in her new role on Friday 1 September and is very ably finding her feet. In particular this year, Mrs Khan will be overseeing the Year 11 pastoral team and supporting our Year 11 students in the run up to their exams. As a fantastic Science teacher herself she will also be working to support the Science Team. Mrs Khan is exceptionally well-qualified for the role of Assistant Headteacher as part of the Senior Leadership Team at Cotham having previously worked in senior roles in a number of other Secondary Schools in the city.

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#### Mr Phil Dodd, Faculty Leader of English

We are pleased to announce that Mr Dodd has joined us as the new Faculty Leader of English this year. Mr Dodd is a highly experienced leader of English having led the subject in schools in Weston-super-Mare, Stroud and Gloucestershire, and contributing to the curriculum and assessment development of English faculties in multiple schools within an academy trust. As well as an amateur carpenter learning to carve utensils and furniture by hand, Mr Dodd is also an accomplished musician, playing the guitar and reaching Grade 8 in the trumpet so we hope to hear him in some of our future school musicals and performances!

#### Mrs Martina Veale, Year 7 Learning Coordinator

Mrs Veale joins the Year 7 team as Learning Coordinator having supported the school's Senior Leadership Team for the final term of last year. Mrs Veale comes with a vast amount of experience in schools at various levels including senior management and has also worked in education outside of schools for exam boards and other awarding bodies. Our new Year 7 students are very fortunate to have Mrs Veale overseeing their progress and wellbeing, and we look forward to working with her over the coming weeks.

#### Mrs Anna Bingham - Acting Faculty Leader, MFL

Anna is passionate about languages and most of all anything German! Anna spent many years living and working in Berlin after studying her French and German degree. Anna loves the quirkiness and logic of the German language as well as the culture and is keen to share her enthusiasm for this with Cotham students. Anna has been a teacher for over 16 years and worked in many schools in the North of England until moving to Portishead and started working at Cotham in 2017. Cotham is a fantastic place to work especially because of the diversity of the school community and the community languages which our students speak. Anna is lucky to lead a brilliant MFL Department where we offer French, German and Spanish and she is excited about the relaunch of our KS3 Trip to the Black Forest.

#### **Water Bottles - Please send your child to school with one!**

Bottles of water will no longer be provided with a free school meal but free cups of flavoured or plain water will be given to students. Students can buy a bottle of water in addition to drinking the free cups of water but we strongly recommend that they also bring a water bottle to school to fill them up with water in the canteens and the multiple water fountains around the school site. The cost of supplying bottled water with a free school meal has now been reinvested into larger portions of higher quality food for students and ensuring that they can all have a main meal and a dessert for lunch.



### **Catering at Cotham**

Cotham School works with an external catering company called ABM Catering to provide the school's daily food requirements. Cotham School and ABM Catering are working together to provide a healthy and appetising range of food. ABM Catering is a national company that is an expert in providing meals in education, in secondary schools, primary schools and colleges and will bring a range of new ideas and experiences to the catering experience. All food served by ABM Catering at

Cotham School is Halal and meets the national Healthy Schools guidelines. Please follow the links to read more about [ABM Catering](#) and [view the menu for Terms 1 and 2](#).

ABM Catering offers a number of meal deals including a main meat/fish or vegetarian meal or a sandwich with either cake, fruit or dessert pot for £2.35. They are also providing free of charge Hydration Stations to anyone making a purchase at one of the catering outlets. Cotham School is working to eliminate single-use plastic cups and bottles so it would be appreciated if students could please bring their own reusable bottles for this purpose. ABM Catering will be extending the meal deal offer to provide further choices over the term and will also run a number of theme days. Please look out on the website and in the weekly bulletin for further details!

<b>Week Commencing</b>	<b>ABM Catering Menu Week Number</b>
4 September 2023	1
11 September 2023	2
18 September 2023	3
25 September 2023	1
2 October 2023	2
9 October 2023	3
16 October 2023	1

### **Breakfast Club**

Cotham School is proud to be a member of the National School Breakfast Programme which is funded by the Department for Education and delivered by Family Action to support schools in England to provide children with a healthy breakfast at the start of the school day.

All students are invited to enjoy either a free bagel or cereal for breakfast at Cotham School. Breakfast Club runs from the A Block Canteen every morning between 8:15am and 8:30am.



### **Arrangements for Off-Site PE and Sports Provision this Academic year**

You may have heard that our school playing field at Stoke Lodge has been registered as a Town and Village Green following a recent decision by the Bristol City Council Public Rights of Way (PROWG) Committee, this decision was contrary to the legal advice that the committee received which was that the land should not be registered. Not only is this a crushing disappointment to the school but more importantly it means that members of the public now have full and unfettered access to the playing field, including when our students would be taking part in their PE lessons. We deem this to present an unacceptable level of risk to our students and staff and so it is with a heavy heart that we will temporarily halt using the playing field this academic year whilst we seek redress for this unfathomable decision.

We are delighted to announce that we have been able to secure the Shine Sports Ground, at Golden Hill, for this academic year. Without the partnership with Shine we would not have been able to fulfil our curriculum requirements or provide our students with a safe and secure outdoor space to partake in sporting activity, so necessary for their health and wellbeing.

Students will be safely transported to and from the site as they have been previously to our Stoke Lodge playing field and will be able to make use of the changing and sanitary facilities provided.

Until next week, with very best wishes for the weekend.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "Jo Butler". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a prominent vertical stroke on the left side.

Ms Jo Butler  
(Headteacher)