



**Gildredge
House**

Thursday 18th July 2024

Dear Parents/Guardians

As we wrap up another incredible academic year at Gildredge House, I reflect on this year's remarkable journey. It has been a year filled with achievements, growth, and a few surprises. In this end-of-year letter, I will highlight some of the key achievements and draw your attention to our overall progress on our school development plan this year, and the key information you need to know for September.

Gildredge House celebrates a decade of educational excellence and growth

First and foremost, I'd like to celebrate a significant milestone: Gildredge House's 10th anniversary. A decade of educational excellence, community contribution, and unwavering commitment to our mission to 'Aspire' is certainly worth applauding. From our humble beginnings in September 2013 to where we stand today, we've come a long way in empowering young minds and fostering a spirit of Aspiration.

Over the past ten years, Gildredge House has provided high-quality education and established itself as a cornerstone of the local community. The school's commitment to fostering a spirit of ambition and excellence among our students is a testament to its belief in the potential of every individual in its community, especially you as parents.



Students gather to mark ten years of Gildredge House

Now, I would like to take a moment to highlight some of our key achievements this term:

Sports Spectacular: Our students continued to excel in countless sporting events this year. They showcased their athleticism and sportsmanship this term in the Primary and Secondary Sports Days. They have also pitted themselves against other schools in Eastbourne at Town Sports, achieving third place overall. Special mention goes to our Year 8 and Year 9 cricket teams, with the Year 9 girls clinching first place in the Street20 Cricket tournament. Our tennis stars also shone at the Sussex Schools Tennis Championships.

Artistic Brilliance: The Summer Concert was a testament to our students' musical talents, with performers all the way from Year 1 to Year 13 coming together harmoniously. The all-through choir's performance was particularly moving. We also showcased artistic talents through the Year 3 and Year 4 Breakfast Concerts and the brilliant Year 6 Robin Hood production.

Global Citizens: Our World Cultural Day of Diversity was a resounding success. It raised substantial funds for UNICEF and celebrated our rich cultural tapestry.

Leadership and Enterprise: We have recently appointed our largest-ever Senior Student Leadership team from over 30 applications, and trained Year 9 peer mentors to support our incoming Year 7 students. Year 6 students demonstrated excellent Enterprise skills, raising c. £800, enabling filming of their production and end-of-term party resources.

Beyond the Classroom: There have been over 70 trips this academic year which works out to be a trip every three days. From our end-of-term celebratory trips to Knockhatch, Chessington, Thorpe Park and Urban Jump, the Year 6 residential trip to the Isle of Wight and Primary beach trips, to the Year 7 trip to Opal Coast in France and a trip for Year 1 to Bodiam Castle, our students have been broadening their horizons beyond the classroom. We even received a thank you letter from one of the trip venues commenting on how well-behaved and courteous our students were. In the Key Stage 2 Brilliant Club, students had to develop their skills of analysing literature and discussing language and structural features. Their final assignment had two parts, both consisting of 500 words. Feedback from the Brilliant Club academic tutor was very positive, and the students should be extremely proud of the work they produced.

Community Engagement: We have hosted a total of 19 Parent Partnership events, including this term's SEND Coffee Mornings; reinforcing our commitment to strong school-home relationships and parent voice. This term, the highlight was our fantastic, if not slightly wet, Summer Festival, arranged by the superb FoGH team. It was wonderful to see so many people supporting us, and for our students who performed during the event to have an audience to play to. We have also continued our connection with Beechwood Grove Care Home, taking groups of students to meet the residents.

ASPIRE in Action: In its inaugural year, students have received over 170,000 ASPIRE points. Some students have reached the Gold and Platinum ASPIRE point thresholds.

Forest School: The launch of our new Forest School programme has been a resounding success; it has been great to visit the students in this environment and see them thriving and having fun. Parents and school staff have commented on the significant change in the students' attitude and confidence, with students who were once shy and reserved now having conversations about the skills they are learning and the experiences they are having.

Outstanding achievements: This year, as part of our annual rewards programme, I have launched a new award, the Executive Head Teacher's Commendation. Students are nominated by their teachers and nominees need to exemplify outstanding achievement in at least one of the following areas: Academic Excellence, Exceptional Personal Growth, or Outstanding Contribution to the Community. There were a number of students nominated across the school and a total of seven who were truly outstanding. I have attended the celebration assemblies this week to award the lucky recipients.

This year, we have made significant progress with our school development plan thanks to the hard work and dedication of the staff at Gildredge House. There has been rapid progress in the development of the Gildredge House lesson culture, in particular, the Gildredge House 5 - Challenge, Explanation, Modelling, Questioning and Feedback, and Retrieval Practice - Assessment for Learning, Tier 2 and 3 vocabulary and beautiful books in the Secondary phase. We have continued our work on the through-line curriculum, implementing medium-term plans and adaptive teaching through the Empowering Every Learner programme, supporting all students, regardless of need, to make progress.

We continue to develop student, staff and student voice and have held events, surveys and consultations to get your feedback and make adaptations where necessary. Finally, there was a focus on behaviour, attendance, and punctuality this year, and we have seen a significant drop in suspensions, and an improved attitude toward learning across the school. Next year, we will continue to refine and embed our progress in these areas as we continue our relentless focus on Aspiring for the best for our students.

Following the DfE approval of the phased closure of our Sixth Form, we saw the last Year 13 cohort pass through our doors this summer. The Year 13 students praised the staff for the support they received throughout their time at Gildredge House and we look forward to welcoming the students back in August for the last time to celebrate their exam results.

Over the summer, we will see significant renovations and improvements across the school estate, including a new Primary phase Adventure Trail and outdoor games, ICT infrastructure upgrades, including Wi-Fi, heating and hot water air source pump system upgrades, redecoration of classroom learning spaces, new wall art, and improved signage, to name just a few.

As you are aware, Gildredge House is a mobile phone-free school. In this year's Welcome Event for new Year 7 students and their parents, I discussed the link between young people's use of mobile phones and social media and the significant rise in mental health issues since 2010. Attached to this letter are the instructions on how you, as a parent, can create important settings on your own and your child's phone to ensure you can control things like Screen Time, Downtime, App Limits, Communication Limits, and Communication Safety. Please use the summer holidays to ensure your child's phone is set up in this way to support their focus on their learning when in school and their online safety when at home.

I am immensely proud of our school's continued impact on the lives of our students and the wider community. Our commitment to helping every child aspire to greatness in all aspects of their lives has shaped their academic achievements, character, and future prospects. As Gildredge House embarks on its next decade, we remain steadfast in our commitment to our founding principles and values. We will continue to adapt to meet the evolving needs of our students and the community while staying true to our mission and Aspire values of Ambition, Support, Perseverance, Integrity, Reflection and Empathy.

I would like to say thank you to the staff at Gildredge House. I am grateful for their hard work and dedication this academic year.

Finally, I would like to wish you all a wonderful summer holiday. We look forward to welcoming students in Years 6, 7 and 11 back on Wednesday 4th September, and all other Year Groups on Thursday 5th September. Please watch out for a letter from the Head of Primary, Mrs Punter-Bruce, and the Head of Secondary, Mrs Jenkins, with key details for the new term.

Here's to another year of aspiring in all that we do!

Warm regards

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'CB', written in a cursive style.

Mr Craig Bull
Executive Head Teacher

See the next two pages for 'Setting up Parental Controls - a Parent's Guide'

Setting up your child's iPhone with Apple Family Sharing: a Parent's Guide

Step 1: Set up Family Sharing

- a) On your iPhone, go to Settings > [Your Name] > Family Sharing.
- b) Tap "Add Member" > "Create an Account for a Child".
- c) Follow the prompts to create your child's Apple ID.

Step 2: Set up your child's iPhone

- a) Turn on the new iPhone and follow the setup prompts.
- b) When asked to sign in with an Apple ID, use your child's new Apple ID.
- c) Enter the parent's Apple ID password when requested to complete the setup.

Step 3: Enable key Parental Control features

A. Screen Time

1. On your iPhone, go to Settings > Family Sharing > Screen Time.
2. Tap your child's name and turn on Screen Time.

B. Downtime

1. In Screen Time settings, tap "Downtime".
2. Set a daily schedule when apps are unavailable e.g. the school day 8.25am-3.05pm.

C. App Limits

1. In Screen Time settings, tap "App Limits" > "Add Limit".
2. Choose app categories or specific apps to limit, e.g. YouTube/Gaming Apps.
3. Set a time limit for each day or customise by day.

D. Communication Limits

1. In Screen Time settings, tap "Communication Limits".
2. Choose who your child can communicate with during allowed screen time and downtime.

E. Communication Safety

1. In Screen Time settings, tap "Communication Safety".
2. Turn on the feature to warn your child about sensitive content in Messages.

Step 4: Manage purchases and downloads

- a) Go to Settings > Family Sharing > Purchase Sharing.
- b) Ensure "Share Purchases with Family" is turned on.
- c) Your approval will be required for your child's purchases and downloads.

Step 5: Location Sharing

- a) In Family Sharing settings, tap "Location Sharing".
- b) Turn on location sharing for your child's device.

Remember: Review and adjust these settings *regularly* as your child grows and their needs change. Open communication about device usage is key to maintaining a healthy digital lifestyle.

Setting up your child's Android phone with Google Family Link: a Parent's Guide

Step 1: Set up Family Link

- a) Download the Google Family Link app on your phone.
- b) Open the app and tap "Create family group".
- c) Follow the prompts to add your child to the family group.

Step 2: Set up your child's Android phone

- a) Turn on the new Android phone and follow the setup prompts.
- b) When asked to sign in with a Google account, choose "Create account for my child".
- c) Enter your child's information and follow the prompts to create their account.
- d) Link your child's account to yours when prompted.

Step 3: Enable key Parental Control features

A. Screen Time Limits

1. Open the Family Link app on your phone.
2. Select your child's profile.
3. Tap "Daily limit" to set overall screen time limits.

B. Bedtime

1. In Family Link, tap "Bedtime" under your child's profile.
2. Set a schedule for when the device should be locked.

C. App-Specific Limits

1. In Family Link, tap "App limits" under your child's profile.
2. Select apps you want to limit and set daily time limits.

D. Content Restrictions

1. In Family Link, tap "Content restrictions" under your child's profile.
2. Set age limits for apps, games, movies, and TV shows.

E. SafeSearch and YouTube Restrictions

1. In Family Link, scroll to "Filters on Google Chrome" and "YouTube" sections.
2. Enable SafeSearch and restricted mode on YouTube.

Step 4: Manage purchases and downloads

- a) In Family Link, tap "Google Play" under your child's profile.
- b) Choose approval settings for purchases and downloads.

Step 5: Location Tracking

- a) In Family Link, tap "Location" under your child's profile.
- b) Enable location tracking to see your child's device location.

Step 6: Device locking

- a) In Family Link, you can remotely lock your child's device at any time.
- b) Tap "Lock now" under your child's profile to instantly lock the device.

Additional tips:

- Some features may require you to set up Family Payment Methods in Google Play.
- For teenagers (13 years and older), the child can turn off some restrictions, but you will be notified of this.
- Family Link settings can also be accessed through parents.google.com on a computer.

Remember: Review and adjust these settings *regularly* as your child grows, and their needs change. Open communication about device usage is key to maintaining a healthy digital lifestyle.