



Malbank School & Sixth Form College

Rejoice in being the best that we can be.

Dear Parents and Carers,

I wrote to all parents at the end of last academic year to introduce myself as SENCo at **Malbank**, having worked at the school for the last 18 years and, for the last five years as Assistant Head leading Attendance and Teaching and Learning.

I would like to begin by thanking you for your patience, support, and ongoing communication over the course of this first half-term. Your partnership has been invaluable in helping us to ensure a smooth and positive start for our students.

We are pleased to welcome four new Learning Support Assistants to our team this term. They will be working across a range of year groups, including our ever-growing Sixth Form, to ensure that students receive the right support to succeed. As you may be aware, we are still experiencing some staff absence, and we are carefully managing timetables to cover these gaps. Please be assured that we are working hard to support all students as best as we can during this time.

I am also delighted to confirm that Mrs Michelle Perry has been appointed as our new Operational SEN Lead. She will be supporting both myself and Mrs Rachel Sinden, our Deputy SENCo, in leading and strengthening the provision for students with additional needs along with Connect Manager, Mr Potts, supported by Mrs Cleary, and our growing, supportive LSA team.

Annual reviews will shortly begin, starting with students in Year 11 and Year 13, before moving through the other year groups across the academic year. Alongside these formal review meetings, there will also be opportunities to review progress at parents' evenings and through the sharing of assessment data. You will be contacted directly with details regarding your child's review meeting when the time comes.

In addition, we will be seeking your feedback through parental surveys. These are a valuable way for us to reflect on what is working well and where we can improve. We ask that you complete these surveys honestly and constructively, as your input really helps to shape the support we provide.

I would also like to take this opportunity to clarify the use of **Connect** and **The Lighthouse**. These are supportive, inclusive spaces where interventions are carefully planned to help students with their learning. They are *not* intended to be an alternative to mainstream lessons, but rather a way of strengthening access to them.

We continue to work in partnership with the Local Authority SEN team and a range of other professionals to ensure that our provision remains responsive to individual needs.

Finally, please remember that any SEN-related concerns should be directed to our dedicated SENCo mailbox: senco@malbank.cheshire.sch.uk. All other queries should be directed to the relevant Key Stage office: keystage3@malbank.cheshire.sch.uk.

Thank you once again for your continued support, and we look forward to working together to ensure the best outcomes for your children.

Yours sincerely,
Julie Machin
SENCo
Assistant Head
Malbank School

 Headteacher: John D. Harrison B.A. (Hons.)

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