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Interim Executive Headteacher: Gregg Mockridge
Headteacher of Primary: Sarah Evans

Monday 8th December 2025

Dear Parents and Carers,

Following the resignation of Mr Black and the leave of absence of Mr Wade, I would like to update you and also share a little about myself.

I am currently the Director of School Improvement for the Trust and the Headteacher at Stanchester Secondary School in Stoke-sub-Hamdon. Stanchester achieved strong results last year, placing it in the top ten schools for attainment in Somerset. I bring this experience with me and am confident that, together, we can make rapid and sustained improvements at BCA.

We are expecting an Ofsted inspection imminently. While we are aware that the report is unlikely to reflect the strengths and potential of the school as it stands today, please be assured that significant work is already underway, and we are committed to moving the academy forward swiftly and positively.

Progress at BCA – 2025/26

Although outcomes in Year 6 and Year 11 were not where we wanted them to be last year, we now have firm foundations in place for improvement.

- **Primary:** Under the leadership of Mrs Evans, the primary team is reporting encouraging progress and a stronger picture compared to last year.
- **Secondary:** Year 11 teachers have been encouraged by the student's improvement engagement in their most recent set of mock examinations.
- **External Support:** We are also working with the DfE's RISE team, which is providing valuable support to help accelerate improvement.

Across BCA, staff are working with real determination to ensure that outcomes for 2026 reflect the talents and hard work of our students.

Behaviour and Suspensions

Suspensions have been too high, but we are already seeing improvement, particularly in primary, where teamwork and consistent expectations have made a clear difference.

In secondary, behaviour is improving but still needs to be more consistent. Our focus now is on clarity, fairness, and support. We want every student to feel calm, safe, and ready to learn, and we want every lesson to be free from disruption.

The updated behaviour policy for both primary and secondary will be launched in January and shared with you before the end of term. Our aim is a system that supports students to make positive choices and celebrates their successes.

Communication

We know communication has not always been as effective as it should be. The scheduling of the additional INSET day in January is an example of this, and I apologise for the confusion caused. The day will remain in place, and we have included the fixed term dates for next year.

To improve communication going forward:

- **Primary enquiries:** Please contact Mrs Evans
- **Secondary enquiries:** Please contact Mrs Hilton

You will receive a response within 24 hours (or 48 hours at the latest). We want you to feel heard, supported, and informed.

Stability and Future Planning

Many changes have taken place over the past year. Our priority now is to stabilise systems so that students, families, and staff experience greater consistency. Necessary adjustments will be made before Christmas, with an update shared ahead of the January start. After that, no further changes will take place until September 2026.

Uniform

We will also be working with you and with pupils on the uniform policy. Government guidance now limits branded items to three (or four including a tie) from September 2026. Your views matter, and we want the final uniform expectations to be both affordable and practical.

A separate letter will be sent regarding uniform arrangements for January 2026.

Working Together

Most importantly, I am committed to working in partnership with pupils, parents, and staff to make BCA a confident, thriving school at the heart of its community. There is real talent and potential here, and I am excited to build on the positive work already happening.

I look forward to meeting you at the gate and at events throughout the year.
Thank you for your continued support.

Yours Sincerely

Mr Gregg Mockridge
Interim Executive Headteacher
Director of School Improvement