

Riddlesdown Collegiate



20th July 2023

Dear Parent/Guardian,

I would like to take this opportunity to thank students, staff, governors, parents and guardians for making me feel so welcome over the past few weeks when I have visited Riddlesdown Collegiate. It is clear that Riddlesdown is a family, and care and excellence are an integral part of the culture here. I would like to thank Mr Dey and Mrs Turner, who created a very comprehensive induction programme for me over the past few weeks. This will help to ensure the transition in school leadership is smooth and Riddlesdown continues to go from strength to strength.

Riddlesdown students are ambitious and creative and have many opportunities to express themselves. I have really enjoyed hearing their stories of sporting success, community contributions, fundraising, drama productions and to see the design and art works being made. For students who require extra support, I have seen first-hand how staff go above and beyond to help and source specialist support when required. The warm and nurturing environment of the MacKay College, for example, also enables students to continue their learning despite any challenges they face.

During my visits, I have met with many staff and students, seen excellent lessons and assemblies, interviewed our new Collegiate Ambassadors, and had the pleasure of attending the brilliant Summer Concert with my family. It was also wonderful to meet the parents and guardians of our new Year 7 students and to meet students during their College VI induction.

The end of an academic year brings an opportunity to pause and reflect. I hope your children will look back at the many things they will have learned and achieved, but also the experiences they had which have helped them to further develop their character. We hope that they take time to enjoy the summer, to relax and to recharge.

I am delighted to be joining Riddlesdown from September as Principal and look forward to working with you over the coming years to ensure your child enjoys an exceptional education.

Yours sincerely,

Dr Parimal Bhatt
Principal Designate