

Debbie Bailey – Profile letter



Dear students, parents and carers, staff, Governors and Trust colleagues,

I am delighted to have been appointed as the new Headteacher for Queen's Croft High School and I'm looking forward to joining you in September. I have been Headteacher in other special schools in the West Midlands and have particular experience of helping young people to manage their own behaviour. This is not always an easy thing to do, but I believe that it is always possible if we find the right kind of support (and if the young person wants to make the change.) I have taught pupils with lots of different needs in primary and secondary schools and I really enjoyed teaching Food Technology. My signature bake is a Lemon Drizzle cake!

I visited Queen's Croft in March this year and was very impressed with the hardworking staff team and all the pupils who were polite, focused on their learning and enjoying themselves. I could see lots of good quality learning happening as I walked around school, but I could also see that there were things that could be even better. I felt that my skills and experience were a "good fit" for Queen's Croft and that I could contribute to the school being even more successful in the future, with all pupils feeling proud of their achievements.

There are three things that I think are important for everyone who is part of the Queen's Croft community. When we come to school, we all want to be happy, safe and feel connected to others. People are happy when they have a sense of purpose and feel that things are getting better. For students, this is about knowing that they are making progress in their learning and that they are getting better. For staff, part of being happy is feeling that what they do makes a difference, that they are doing a good job and that the school is getting even better. For Governors and members of the Trust community, part of them being happy is being confident that the school meets all the required expectations and that they are able to see things are getting better.

A safe school is one where pupils know that when they need help, someone will notice and will care enough to do something about it. It is also a place where staff feel safe enough to ask for help and are confident that someone will listen and respond. I see this as one of the most important parts of my new job – making sure that everyone is safe and feels good about themselves. This means that everyone can concentrate on all pupils making good progress in their learning.

Queen's Croft already has great connections to the Trust. I'm excited to learn more about all your trips out of school and to exploring ways of extending our local connections. We already have many good things to share with others. I think that we could also benefit from finding out about how other schools make sure all pupils are achieving.

There are some extra challenges for me in taking on the leadership of the school during the current Covid-19 crisis. I know that staff have been working hard to keep in contact with pupils and families. I also recognise that it is really tough for pupils and families when school is closed for such a long period of time. I will be working closely with the school staff team as they review risk assessments. We will be planning to gradually increase the number of pupils in school and making sure that we are operating within the guidelines set by the Government. We will ensure that you all know exactly what is going to happen before September.

It is very important to me to make connections to all of Queen's Croft's students and their families. I want to understand what makes each one of you uniquely special. I look forward to meeting you soon.

Debbie Bailey