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Mrs Julia Ingham & Mrs Carly Berry - Principals of Banbury Aspirations

13th September 2024

Dear Parent / Guardian,

## Campus Open Evening Wednesday 2nd October, 17:30 - 19:30 & Open Tours with the Principals.

Following a year of change on our campus including our appointment as Principals we are delighted to invite you to our annual open evening where you will have the opportunity to meet our wonderful students and staff and see the facilities we have on our campus. We took over as Principals of Wykham Park and Futures Institute early last academic year and there have been many positive changes that we would love to share with you as you and your child make the exciting decision about the school you will choose for the next stage of their education.

**Open Evening:** This takes place for both schools on Wednesday 2nd October, 17:30 - 19:30. (Note that there will be two talks from the Principals at 17:30 & 19:00 in Wykham Park Theatre). The event is principally aimed at Year 6 children but we also welcome families with children in Year 5 who are planning ahead to Year 7 2026 entry.

**Open Tours:** We are additionally excited to announce a series of Open Tours over the coming weeks where we invite you to join us to see our beautiful campus and our amazing staff and students during the working school day. We feel that it is important that you have an opportunity to see our "school in action" as you make the exciting decision about the school you and your child will choose for their next 5 – 7 years of secondary education. To sign up please email Kate Chipperfield at <a href="mailto:kchipperfield@futures-aspirations.org">kchipperfield@futures-aspirations.org</a> giving your name, your child's name, your child's year group and school and she will contact you w/c 22nd September.

**Two Schools: One Campus:** Our campus is unique, offering a choice of two schools, both providing quite different experiences for our students alongside a flourishing cross-campus Sixth Form.

Wykham Park: As an average sized comprehensive school of approximately 900 students, Year 7 students have a wealth of opportunity to develop their academic ability and their character across their time with us. This September we have just launched our new Year 7 Curriculum. This means that students are being taught the curriculum with fewer teachers in fewer spaces, in order to enhance the transition experience and promote a smooth, effective step into secondary education. Students are studying a broad and balanced curriculum, including the core subjects of English, Mathematics and Science. In addition to this, they are studying a range of Humanities and practical subjects. As a thread through the curriculum students will focus on developing a range of softer skills that enhance their development, e.g. collaborative learning and problem solving. These key power skills will lead students to become more rounded, successful and employable young adults in later years. Students will also follow a Personal Development programme and benefit from a mentor and mentor time at the start of each school day. With a wealth of school trips and clubs also on offer, we are proof of the opportunities and learning experiences we offer our Year 7 students and all of our students.

## **Futures Institute:**

In addition to welcoming Year 7s to Wykham Park Academy, we are also excited to welcome



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another Year 7 cohort onto our successful Futures Institute Pathway which at GCSE level has focus on STEM, (Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths) subjects. Futures Institute also has well developed links with leading local industrial partners such as Magna, Aston Martin and Collins Aerospaces and the development of employability skills is a key feature of the school. Whilst these students will be on roll at Wykham Park Academy, and at Key Stage 3 follow much the same curriculum, they will be taught at Futures Institute in a much smaller school environment just inside the campus grounds. There will be a limited number of places on the pathway so it is important that you start talking to us early on and that if you decide to opt for this bespoke pathway for your child that you select Wykham Park as your first choice and explain your preference for the Futures <u>pathway</u> on your OCC application form in the comments section.

We are very proud that both of our schools have recently been judged as "Good" by Ofsted and that we continue to offer an "Outstanding" sixth form provision.

We very much look forward to meeting you & your child and sharing the exciting plans and vision for our Campus that are on offer to you and your child as they embark on their journey into secondary school. If you have any queries please do get in touch.

Mrs Carly Berry

Yours faithfully

Mrs Julia Ingham Principal

Principal **Futures Institute** Wykham Park