Headteacher: Mrs Kelli Foster
BA (Hons) with QTS

Mark Rutherford School
Wentworth Drive
Bedford MK41 8PX

MARK RUTHERFORD SCHOOL

Monday 2nd November 2026

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back for the second half of the autumn term. I hope you had a restful break after a busy half term from the start of this academic year. It was lovely to welcome our students back to school today and we are looking forward to a busy and successful half term ahead in the lead up to the Christmas break.

As we begin this new half term, I would like to take the opportunity to remind you of a few important matters that help ensure all of our students are ready to learn and thrive as Rutherford Ready learners.

Good Attendance Matters
Consistent attendance is one of the most important factors in a child's success at school. Every lesson counts and students who attend school each day make better progress academically, develop stronger friendships with their peers, have better working relationships with their teachers and feel more confident and settled in their learning.

We ask that you continue to support us by ensuring:

- Your child(ren) attend school every day unless they are genuinely unwell.
- Your child(ren) arrives on time each morning, ready to learn. We encourage students to be on site from 8.15am each day to ensure they can get to their tutor bases for a prompt 8.30am start.
- Holidays are not taken during term time.

Thank you for your ongoing support in helping us maintain high attendance standards for all of our students. We have seen an improved attendance percentage across the school this academic year to date and we are keen to sustain this over the coming weeks and remainder of the academic year.

Winter Weather and Appropriate Clothing
As we approach the colder and wetter winter days, please ensure that your child comes to school with a suitable warm (and named) coat each day; hoodies are not permitted and will be confiscated. We continue to encourage students to be outside whenever possible, therefore they need clothing that will keep them comfortable and warm during break and lunchtimes. In the event of very inclement weather, we will revert to our inclement weather plan with designated indoor spaces for each year group.

Key Dates
There is much going on this half term and therefore, please find a reminder below of some key dates for your diaries:

- Thursday 12th November – Sixth Form Open Evening
- Friday 27th November – Training Day
- Tuesday 15th December – Winter Music Concert
- Wednesday 16th December – Year 9 Parents Evening (virtual)
- Friday 18th December – End of Term (early closure)

Social Media
Please continue to follow us on Facebook as we regularly share important information and good news stories (Facebook). We currently have 2400 followers; it would be good to get this to 3000 before the end of term. Please follow us if you don't already!

We greatly value the partnership between home and school and appreciate all that you do to support your child's education. By working together, we can ensure that every child has the best possible opportunity to learn, achieve and enjoy their time at our school.

Thank you for your continued support. We look forward to a productive and enjoyable half term and to celebrating many successes with our students in the weeks ahead.

Yours sincerely,



Mrs K Foster
(Headteacher)