

Dear Parent, Carers and Prospective Year 12 students,

Welcome to Cecil Jones Academy, I apologise that I am not able to meet with you face to face as I normally would do, but I am sure that you understand that due to these exceptional circumstances that we are not able to do so.

I am proud and privileged to be the Executive Headteacher of the new and improved Cecil Jones Academy and be a part of the phenomenal journey the school has been on over the last 18 months. It is an honour to spend each day alongside the incredible, nurturing and inspiring professionals who make up our teaching and support staff as well as the inquisitive, courteous and aspirational young people. As a school, we are now beginning to make a real difference to the life chances of our young people, which each and every one of them deserves. This belief is the fundamental driving force behind everything we do. We are committed to providing a rounded, purposeful and high-quality education to all our students and we strive to ensure every student feels happy, safe and secure.

On becoming a part of The Loxford School Trust, Cecil Jones Academy adopted a back to basics approach, ensuring teaching and learning became the main focus of every day, whilst ensuring high standards were being met in every young person's attitude, appearance and conduct. Our students will learn respect, to value each other, develop social and moral values which will make them become good citizens. We also encourage our students to develop resilience, by not being frightened to make mistakes and to look out for each other. We have developed and nurtured a real community feel within the school to ensure no student ever feels alone or isolated at Cecil Jones.

Our ethos is a traditional one based around our only rule, "be in the right place, at the right time, doing the right thing." Whether it is wearing your tie correctly, holding the door open for someone or completing excellent class or homework, our students know what is expected of them, which in turn creates a calm and cooperative learning environment. We also expect our students to represent the school well in the wider community and strive to instil a sense of pride in wearing the Cecil Jones uniform. We recognise the importance of our local community and are proud to support it in any way we can.

Within this traditional ethos, we will also develop and prepare children with the challenges they will face within the 21st Century and with careers that as of today, do not even exist.

Cecil Jones Academy is currently on a journey to becoming an outstanding school and in order to maintain our newly established ethos and values, Cecil Jones Academy has a strong disciplined environment and we expect you to support us in this. I know many years' ago, Cecil Jones was the number one non-selective school in the area and we will not give up until we are back in that position once again. We as a staff and educators are passionate about this and believe every child can succeed regardless of their starting point and we never give up until we reach that point.

Our school's and Trust's philosophy is simple, 'every child, no excuses'.

Executive Headteacher: **Mr Richard Micek**, Deputy Headteacher: **Mrs Lauren Hedges**

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I am sure many of you may have already looked at our website, read our newsletters and have part of or heard about the changes we have already implemented here at new Cecil Jones Academy, since the Loxford Trust took over the school on 1st April 2019, and I am very grateful to the staff, students and parents/carers who have all embraced these changes so rapidly.

Being forced to embark on the new challenge of education through online mediums whilst young people stayed at home, we are very proud to say that during the lockdown period, all children here at Cecil Jones continued their education on a daily basis following their normal school timetable with teachers being able to answer questions and offer help, guidance and support live through Google Classrooms, as well as providing some face to face teaching to those children of key workers on a full-time basis throughout the whole period. Of this, I am immensely proud of my staff and students and in recognition of this, we have received numerous messages recognising this remarkable feat, from parents, local businesses and Southend Local Authority.

This September's student numbers at post 16 have again increased, so has the number of courses we now have on offer as part of our ever-expanding curriculum provision. Our students have seen the rapid changes and are now selecting Cecil Jones Academy as their school of choice for Post 16. As a school, we are exceptionally proud of our Post 16 students and how they have contributed to the success of the new Cecil Jones Academy.

This summer, we improved our sixth form teaching and private study spaces and over the coming months, our current Post 16 students will have access to a modern, state of the art library with all the resources they require to support them with their studies.

Since the joint the Loxford School Trust, we are proud of the successes at Post 16 and with the increased numbers of students who are going onto university.

You have high expectations and aspirations for your child; you want them to have a bright future and to help them on their journey, we will be part of that process too. Life is changing for us all. The current economic market places even further value on education. We are confident as a school that the youngsters within our care will thrive within our education system and we welcome your application.

Ultimately, we believe your child is paramount. Their education, their happiness and their safety are of utmost importance to everyone here. We recognise choosing a secondary school is a daunting and sometimes stressful experience, but hopefully you will see that at Cecil Jones we will do everything we can to make sure you made the right choice in us.

I hope you enjoy your virtual visit of Cecil Jones Academy. If you would like a tour of the school during a normal working day, then please contact the school office on 01702 440000 or drop an email to enquires@ceciljones.net and we will give you a call back.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'R Micek'.

Mr R Micek
Executive Headteacher