

Dear Ifield families,

I hope that you enjoyed the summer holidays and relished the wonderful weather. I had an extra special summer and am delighted to share that I married in August amongst families and friends.

Welcome to the new academic school year, I hope the monthly newsletters provide our families with valuable information throughout this year. We regularly update our school's website, so please take time to enjoy the exciting news shared. It has been fantastic to welcome all pupils back to school and of course our new pupils who have joined Ifield this term. Pupils have settled well into the new year and are learning the routines and adapting well to their new classroom environments and class teams.

I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate all our students in Key Stage 4 and 5 who completed accreditations and sat exams last academic year, achieving a range of entry level certificates, awards and short courses. As a school, we are incredibly proud of their achievements and commend their hard work and resilience throughout last academic year.

For new families joining this year, I warmly welcome you to Ifield's community and very much look forward to working in partnership with you, alongside Ifield's team of dedicated staff throughout your child's educational journey.

The start of a new academic allows time to reflect and plan for the coming year. As a school, we continuously strive to better the lives of your children and prepare them for the next stage of their education.

Some areas of focus are as follows:

Quality of Education: Raising standards and transforming lives

- To embed a rich, creative and ambitious curriculum that is personalised, provides breadth and challenge to enhance the progress that all pupils make so that they succeed in life.

Behaviours and Attitudes: Enhancing positive relationships and high expectations

- To embed the school's culture so that pupils and their families are supported to further develop positive attitudes, such as self-advocacy and expression, and model the school values.

Personal Development: Empowering confidence and independence for life

- Enable pupils to be responsible citizens, by providing opportunities to take lead roles within the school environment and wider community.

A key priority for this year is to enhance communication with our families and I am pleased to confirm that Ifield will be launching a Facebook page in addition to ParentMail, so that we can regularly update families on up and coming events and projects. We are also preparing to introduce a parent app later this year, so that we can share your child's learning and progress with you individually as families.

We are planning to reinstate after school clubs and are currently recruiting a co-ordinator. We will keep our families updated when we are able to confirm a start date.

We have successfully appointed a Breakfast Club Lead and a Co-Ordinator and plan to begin Breakfast Club every weekday morning at Ifield in term 2. A letter will be shared with parents via ParentMail within the next two weeks. The letter will include a survey for you to complete as an expression of interest.

I very much look forward to working with you and all the opportunities this year will bring.

Very best wishes,
Maddie Arnold-Jones

Ifield's Annual Fun Day Saturday 24th September

The Ifield School Summer Funday is taking place on Saturday 24th September between 11.00am until 2.00pm. This is a wonderful day for our school community to come together and enjoy the stalls and activities.

All class teams will be represented and running stalls including a bottle stall, badge-making, name the teddy, guess how many sweets in a jar, sponge throwing. This year's day includes the opportunity to meet Tinkerbell and much more.

There will also be refreshments including teas and coffees, an ice-cream van, a cake-stall and a BBQ.

The PTFA have also organised a raffle with a first prize of £150.00 and two luxury hampers as a 2nd and 3rd prize. Tickets can also be purchased before the day and if families would like more tickets, please contact the school office. Tickets are £1 each and will be drawn on the day.

If anyone would like to help on the day or before, please contact the school office and ask to speak to Mandy Braisted.

Also, if you have any nearly new donations including toys, we would love to sell them on our White Elephant stall. Ideas for other attractions would also be gratefully received.

We look forward to seeing everyone. Fingers crossed for sunshine!

Ifield School's Aims and Values

Ifield School continues to provide an outstanding and supportive learning environment in which everyone can achieve their very best. We aim to value, support and challenge our pupils to achieve success.

Valued – We believe every individual is unique

Challenged- We believe that pupils succeed best when staff have high expectations

Supported- We believe that a good learning environment stems from a committed staff who work as a team to support all pupils.

Successful- We believe that success is important to every individual and to have that success recognised encourages further achievement.

Introducing New Leaders at Ifield

Susan High- Assistant Headteacher- Primary



I am Susan High and I am excited to be stepping into the role of Assistant Headteacher for Primary. My main responsibilities will be working closely with staff and parents to ensure our pupils achieve their full potential at school. I have been privileged to work at Ifield for the last three years and in that time, have lead the Specialist Intervention Nursery and worked to improve the teaching of phonics throughout the school. More recently, I have been part of the Specialist Teaching team providing advice on how to support children with special educational needs within a mainstream setting. I have been teaching since 2005 and have extensive experience across the primary age range. I have a special interest in English and in 2012 became a Specialist Leader of Education for English and Phonics which enabled me to gain experience of supporting other schools. Over the years I have held several leadership positions including the role of Deputy Headteacher and SENCO.

Sue Mason- Assistant Headteacher- Secondary



I am Sue Mason, and I am the Assistant Headteacher for Secondary at Ifield School. I qualified as a teacher in 2007 and have since worked across a variety of primary schools in Gravesend and Dartford, as well as being an Early Help Support Worker in Northfleet. In my previous post, I was the Special Educational Needs Coordinator, Wellbeing and inclusion Team lead and Deputy Designated Safeguarding lead. My qualifications include a BA (Hons) degree, a Post Graduate Diploma in Education and a Post Graduate Certificate of Education, as well as the National Award for Special Educational Needs Co-ordination. My main responsibilities are to work with staff members to continuously improve performance, igniting the enthusiasm and ambition of pupils to learn and achieve to their full ability, whilst also developing effective school-parent relationships where we work together to facilitate educational success. I am thrilled to be part of the team at Ifield and look forward to working together.

Sam Hargood - Assistant Headteacher- Sixth Form



I have had the pleasure of working at Ifield School for 19 years. At first as a Teaching Assistant, I then trained and qualified as a teacher. I also worked at Ifield Smile as an outreach teacher for a number of years, supporting pupils in mainstream secondary schools throughout Gravesham.

While I was a Teaching Assistant I completed a degree with the OU - English Language and Literacy BA (Hons) in 2007.

I qualified as a teacher in 2009. I have taught in Key Stages 3, 4 and 5.

I completed the Middle Leadership Development Programme 2013 and became a Dimension Lead, later I became Key Stage 5 Lead then Key Stage 4 Lead in January 2020.

I completed my Masters in Education Enabling Learning, Inclusion and Institutional Development in 2014.

I completed my NPQSL with a focus on teaching of reading during the academic year 2020-21.

I am excited to be leading Ifield's Sixth Form provision and look forward to the opportunities this year will bring for our young people.

A number of new staff have joined Ifield this year and I know will make a difference to our pupils' education. Please see our school website for staff updates.

Artsmark Gold Award!



**Artsmark
Gold Award**
Awarded by Arts
Council England

Ifield School has been on an Arts journey of epic proportions. Back in 2018, we made the pledge to develop the arts and cultural provision to raise our level from platinum to Gold!

We completed an audit of the current arts opportunities available to pupils both internally and externally, with the aim of raising the profile of the arts across the whole school, we created a pupil whole class survey to allow pupils to share what art forms they had not experienced and would like to experience. This information assisted us in planning an arts week which included, workshops led by external arts companies for every key stage, as a result of arts week, pupil engagement and wellbeing increased both in school and at home with one parent reporting “my child will not often talk about their day, but they have not stopped talking about arts week”, and a variety of pupils asking: “That was brilliant! Can we do it again?” We are proud to say that Arts week is now an annual feature at Ifield School!

We are partnered with Naked Frank Theatre company to create a project with the aim of developing the drama curriculum and increasing staff confidence which had been identified as an area of development in our school development plan. Key Stage 3 pupils participated in a series of drama workshops and performed to their peers in an improvised and devised piece featuring their teachers.

Throughout the journey staff have worked with a multitude of artists and organisations to develop knowledge on drama, dance and visual arts. The Kent Music and Chiltern Music Therapy organisation have provided professional development for all staff, resulting in increased knowledge and skills relating to using music throughout all areas of personal learning and self-regulation.

The arts are now embedded across the whole curriculum with key features in the cornerstones and opportunities for pupils to perform and display artwork across all key stages.

All this and through a pandemic as well! We are thrilled that we have been awarded the GOLD award! Thank you to all pupils, students, staff and parents who have supported Ifield throughout this exciting journey!



Staff Changes

At the end of the July, we bid farewell to staff members who had devoted many years to Ifield School and I would like to share our gratitude to the following former staff members:

Staff	Role	Service	Next Step
Richard Gardner	Teacher	18 years	VI Specialist
Debbie Todhunter	School Secretary and EHCP Co-ordinator	17 years	Retirement
Tracey Hammond	Teacher	14 years	Retirement
Katherine Cuffe	Teacher	13 years	Time with Family

We wish all our past colleagues all the best for their future and always remember 'Once a Friend of Ifield School, always a Friend of Ifield School.'

Save the Dates!

Funday: Saturday 24th September 11am-2pm

Meet The Teacher Evening at Ifield School: Wednesday 12th October 4pm-6pm

Meet the Teacher Evening at Ifield Sixth Form: Monday 10th October 4pm-6pm

School Photo Day: Wednesday 16th November