

Headteacher: Mr D. Whales | Chair of Governors: Mr A. Brown

8th September 2025

Dear [Headteacher's Name],

I hope this message finds you well and that the start of the new academic year has been a positive one for you and your school community.

I'm looking to further develop our links with the local community, particularly with primary schools in the area. I believe that building partnerships and sharing best practice can have a hugely positive impact on school improvement, and I'm very keen to work more closely with you.

I'm also very aware that reputation is an important part of our roles, and that community perception matters.

We've been working extremely hard to make improvements at our school. We know that previously we weren't where we needed to be, and Ofsted rightly highlighted areas for development. Over the past 2.5 years, we've seen a dramatic transformation.

I hope it's appropriate to share some data that reflects the progress we've made—we're genuinely delighted by the speed and impact of the changes:

Exam Data (in two years):

- Overall Attainment has improved by **14%**
- English and Maths (and combined scores) are up by **15%**
- 5 strong GCSE passes (including English & Maths) have increased by **over 15%**

Attendance:

- Now officially **above the national average**
- **2.7%** increase from the previous year
- **4.1%** increase for FSM students

Behaviour (based on staff feedback):

- **95%** report calm and orderly conduct with aspirational attitudes
- **85%** say behaviour is at least good across the school

Parental Feedback:

- **96%** say their child is happy at KSA
- **96%** say their child is expected to work hard
- **95%** agree the school has high expectations for behaviour

Staff Feedback:

Headteacher: Damien Whales, Ken Stimpson Academy is a school within the Four Cs Multi-Academy Trust (MAT)

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The Quality in Careers Standard >>>>



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- **98%** believe the school is continuing to improve
- **93%** enjoy working at the school
- **90%** say the school is well led and managed

We've seen major improvements across all measures, alongside rapid progress in standards and expectations. I share these figures not only because we're proud of them, but also to show that our strategies appear to be working. I'm however crystal clear that there's still much to learn, improve and develop.

I'm a strong believer in collaboration between schools—it drives improvement and challenges thinking. There are several areas where I think we could work together, and I'd love to explore the following:

Initial connections:

- Please do come into school for a tour and a chat.
- Our team would love to visit your school to better understand your provision and build relationships.

Transition:

- We're running free extra-curricular workshops for Years 4, 5 and 6 (Sports and Performing Arts now, with Art and Science in October).
- I'd love the opportunity to present to your parents and share the quality of education we now offer.
- Our PE department and other subjects are keen to welcome your students into school and work with our young leaders.
- We have several Open Mornings available for prospective parents, your staff, or anyone interested. Dates and times can be found via this booking form:

<https://forms.office.com/e/QWWxUCvx62>

CPD Opportunities:

- We're developing our CPD offer and plan to run free after-school training at KSA on key topics for staff across the local schools (looking for collaboration and sharing of ideas).
- We have a lesson drop-in process (DDIs) which we'd be happy to offer to your staff to see teaching in action.
- On **Friday 21 November**, our staff will be visiting other schools for immersive CPD. If you could host any of our staff, we'd be very grateful.
- On **Friday 28 November**, we're running a **Leadership Conference** focused on vulnerable and disadvantaged learners. You and your staff would be very welcome—free of charge.

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I've personally spent a lot of time visiting other schools to improve my understanding of school improvement. At KSA we have developed strategies and processes that seem to be working, and we'd be happy to share them. I'm also very keen to learn from others, and I'd love to welcome people like you into our school.

If this sounds of interest, I'd be delighted to arrange a time to visit and discuss these opportunities. Please let me know what works best for you via p.greenwood@kenstimpson.org.uk.

We look forward to the possibility of working more closely together.

Many thanks,



Damien Whales
Headteacher

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