



THORNS

COMMUNITY COLLEGE

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Dear Parents and Carers,

I wish to formally introduce myself to you all as I embark on the first days of my headship here at Thorns Community College.

In the days ahead I shall be speaking to every child in their assembly and introducing myself and my expectations. In short I believe that education sets a young person free to experience the life that they choose, not one imposed upon them by society. I grew up and was educated not far from here, in Walsall, and I am constantly reminded in my role that whilst textbooks, computers, clean classrooms and modern sports halls are all wonderful features of a great school, they matter little compared to the support that we, as parents and carers, can give to our students. There is no doubt that the most successful children are those who live and grow in safe, reassuring, confidence building and loving homes. The home, as a place of happiness and security, is the absolute foundation upon which any child's happiness and success is built.

From time to time we all need a helping hand when our family is in trouble or is going through a tough time. That is why I shall continue to uphold and strengthen Thorns' long standing commitment to close partnership with families, parents and carers. In the end we are all here for the same thing – to help create a new generation of happy, confident and successful people. Working together to ensure this goal is so important for the future of this school.

I have taught for over twenty years in very contrasting secondary schools and enjoyed brief but life changing experiences in South Africa, India and China. On all the days that I have taught or experienced education, I have never once doubted that high levels of achievement in education rest on building each child's desire and self-confidence to learn. Everything else helps, but those two factors determine every child's future, in my view. This desire and confidence stems from us (adults) working together to make it happen. We must remain one voice in stressing the value of education and the joys and opportunities education can bring to every single young person at this school.

I am driven by an excitement about the future of this country and the global context that your child will inhabit. In the past, children competed for jobs with neighbours; today your son or daughter is likely to be vying for a job with someone currently being educated in Brisbane, Mumbai, Shanghai or Los Angeles. A job for life is increasingly a thing of the past and therefore your child's adaptability, resilience, problem solving and social skills are more important than before.

As a parent of two myself, I understand that your children are the most precious and important parts of your life and that you leave them in our care with sound assumptions they will be valued, nurtured and known. Always be assured that we always place your child at the centre of our actions and our decisions.

I look forward to meeting you in the weeks and years ahead; either informally at school events and functions, or through forthcoming parents' evenings.

Yours sincerely

Mr Manny Kelay
Associate Principal