



# Peacehaven Community School

Aspire • Believe • Achieve

Head of School  
Darren Warner-Swann

Executive Head Teacher  
Liza Leung

Greenwich Way, Peacehaven  
East Sussex BN10 8RB

☎ 01273 581100

✉ pcs-enquiries@swale.at

🌐 www.phcs.org.uk

🐦 @PCS\_Peacehaven

20th August 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope you are staying safe and have been able to enjoy the summer. At Peacehaven Community School, we are looking forward to welcoming back all of our students in September. I am writing to introduce myself as the new lead for Attendance. I will be working with our Attendance Team: Marie Wootten and Angie Williams, as well as our heads of year and tutors, to support students and families.

As I am sure you have heard in the news, the latest government guidelines state that, as of September, attendance at school is compulsory for all students. We appreciate the apprehension this may pose for some parents and students and we wanted to reassure you that we have been working hard to ensure this is a safe environment for all. You will receive more information about the specific steps we are taking to protect students nearer to the start of term.

The school closures have demonstrated the importance that school has for the academic, social and emotional development of our young people. For example, a recent study showed that ***the percentage of people experiencing mental health difficulties during lockdown rose by 13.5%***. We appreciate that this will make the return to school in September, for some, more difficult. However, not returning to school and continuing and prolonging social isolation is likely to continue to have a negative impact on mental health, as well as academic success. We, therefore, want to do everything we can to ensure all of our students are confident in returning to school in September and maintaining high levels of attendance.

Please find attached a leaflet from East Sussex County Council called Helping Your Child Return to School. This contains useful information and links to other sources of support. You may also have seen that the government has launched a campaign to help reassure families about returning to school. You can find more information at: [www.gov.uk/backtoschool](http://www.gov.uk/backtoschool) (#backtoschoolsafely)

If you have any specific questions or concerns about how to support your child(ren) to return to school and maintain high attendance, please contact me at [madi.bliss@swale.at](mailto:madi.bliss@swale.at). We know it's important to listen to your concerns and to understand your particular circumstances and I would like to start this process as soon as possible for those who are already feeling anxious about the start of term.

Kind regards,

Ms Madi Bliss  
Assistant Headteacher