



Welcome Message from The Principal– Mark Jones



Thank-you for taking the time to visit our school. As Principal of Belmont Castle Academy since 2008, I feel very proud to be associated with what is a very successful and innovative school, one which has been graded 'good' in the previous three Ofsted inspections with increasing evidence of outstanding elements. Whilst we are a good school, we aspire to be a great one and this is reflected in everything we do. It is for this reason that we seek to appoint only the very best members of staff, recognising this is what our children not only need, but deserve.

Key to the success of any school, I believe, is the appointment of really high-quality staff who are passionate about making a difference to every child in their care. I believe that at BCA we have a very effective and highly motivated team who are all committed to achieving this aim, indeed this is reflected both in terms of the high quality learning environment and also the quality of teaching and learning evident right throughout the school. We are also in a fairly unique position in that over the last two years, due to the careful deployment of staff, we haven't had to rely on agency teachers, thus ensuring that our children only receive 'first-quality' teaching and on a consistent basis. Furthermore, we are very proud of the close links we have with Greenwich University which is helping us to recruit new teachers from within our organisation through the 'School Direct Salaried' route.

We have a very effective Pastoral Support team who, as a result of really positive and proactive partnerships with families, is helping to ensure that some of our most vulnerable children, are thriving and doing well in school. There is also a lot of support for other groups such as those who are EAL, SEN and Pupil Premium as we recognise that many of our children start from a comparatively low base and therefore need to make accelerated progress in order to be fully prepared for the next stage of their educational journey.

There is a shared commitment at BCA ensuring that every child, regardless of their starting point, should receive an exciting and stimulating educational experience as we can possibly offer. This is one of the key reasons why we took the decision a few years ago to introduce our 'Book Focused' curriculum as we believe it is through this approach that we are able to realise one of our key aims of 'developing a love of reading' within our children. Our curriculum is enriched in many ways; we offer children first-hand experiences wherever possible, through trips and visitors to our school, this also includes regular author visits. We are also fortunate in having our very own specialist Spanish teacher, a professional water colour artist working in the school three days a week, a steel pan orchestra, as well as good links with organisations such as The Royal Opera House and Star Sports who provide the cover to enable teachers to plan in their year groups.

We run an extensive range of after-school clubs for the children, with the intention being to try to provide them with as wide range of opportunities as possible including ones linked to sport, music, drama and also more academic subjects. In addition to which many of our older children have excellent opportunities to take on additional responsibilities as: Head boy or girl, Team Captains, Junior Librarians, Peer Mediators, Playground Buddies or School Parliament representatives.

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Furthermore, our school has achieved a great deal of sporting success over the last few years, both at local and County level. In particular, our Gymnastic team has reached the Essex County finals for the last 6 years in succession and our Cross Country and Athletics teams in both 2017, 2018 and 2019 have been outright winners in Essex - a significant achievement considering the strength and depth of the competition. Sadly, due to the pandemic no further competitions have been able to take place in either 2020 or 2021.

In 2013, we took the decision to become a 'stand alone' Academy because we felt that we really understand what our children needed in order for them to be able to grow into confident and enthusiastic learners, shaping our curriculum accordingly to meet their needs. In short, we wanted to retain our individuality and everything that is special and unique about our school, Belmont Castle Academy.

I hope you enjoyed visiting our school and if you do require any further information, please do not hesitate to get in contact with me, either through the school office; 01375 373601 or via email: principal@belmontcastleacademy.org.

Mark Jones

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mark Jones'. The signature is stylized, with a large 'M' and 'J' that are interconnected, and the name 'ones' written in a smaller, cursive script to the right of the main signature.

Please note we take the safeguarding of our children very seriously and expect all our staff to ensure that the safety and welfare of every child is paramount