## Celebration

Last year, we were involved in the South Glos 'Better Behaviour Project'. This was a Local Authority initiative inspired by Paul Dix's book – 'When the Adult Changes, Everything Changes'. The aim of the project is to focus on the positive culture of the school and ultimately reduce exclusions across the Local Authority. The LA project was cut short due to COVID19 but will resume at some point in the next academic year.

Our behaviour policy has relationships at the heart of it. We know our students well, we know their needs, we plan for their needs and we therefore meet their needs. We are willing to have difficult conversations with our students and with each other because we want *all* students and *all* staff to excel. We have clear boundaries, high expectations and we care for one another. Paul Dix uses the phrase 'bothedness', and it's one we have adopted, we are bothered enough about each other that we will always celebrate and challenge.

As a result of the project we introduced the following positive behaviour techniques during 2019/2020:

**Meet and Greet** – this is a personalised welcome at the start of each lesson. Pre-COVID, staff stood at classroom doors and shook hands, welcomed their students into their classroom and made them feel welcome. Alternative and creative meet and greets will be on display from September!

**Brimsham's Best Crest** – we take the carrot approach, not the stick. We want students to feel motivated, engaged and recognised and so rather than putting on the board those that have made some poor choices, we celebrate those that have gone above and beyond.

**Friday phone calls** – it's really important we end our working week on a high, so every Friday we ask all staff to telephone one student and celebrate something they have done that week. Parents and students really appreciate it.

**School rules** – these can be summed up in three words – *be ready, be respectful, be safe*. Refer to these as much as you can when you're celebrating the choices a student makes and when you're letting them know they've not got it right.

**Circle time** – our vertical tutor groups will look different in September and rather than having five year groups five times a week, you will have one year group once a week. Those 15 minutes are a significant moment in a child and tutor's week, it's the time you gather together in a circle and listen to one another, it's a chance for every child to be heard. Tutors at Brimsham are advocates for their tutees and having those positive, mutually respectful conversations are a central layer in what we are trying to achieve.

**Student Reward System** – once a term we celebrate those that we are gold standard. Celebration events might include a pizza delivery, a secret cinema event, and sporting events. In non-COVID times it might also mean a trip to the cinema or bowling alley.

