

## *Marsh Mail*

The start of the new academic year is an important time for building relationships. Our new Year 7 cohort have been busy bonding in their tutor groups and teachers and students across the school have been getting to know each other in their new classes and houses.

At Linton Village College we prize relationships. Strong connections between staff and students, and students and their peers, support wellbeing and academic success. While relationships are at the heart of learning, they are not always easy to create and sustain. Secondary schooling can prove a challenging time for friendship issues and teenage cliques; the pressure to fit in and be accepted by peers is not always easy to navigate, especially with the additional influence of social media. The shift in the PSHE curriculum to give a greater emphasis to healthy relationships, as well as e-safety, is an important one to equip young people with the opportunity to learn and reflect on the connections that they engage in.

The changes that we have made to pastoral care structures and systems at the College this term are in recognition of the need for clear, targeted support to enable all of our young people to achieve their potential. We have been joined by a new Inclusion Administrator to support the pastoral team including our Inclusion Manager, and have some new roles including Heads of House, Safeguarding Officer and Case Workers in recognition of the need for intervention and pastoral care that focuses on safeguarding our young people and providing vulnerable students with bespoke care and support. We are also in the process of recruiting important support staff positions including Teaching and Catering Assistants which are advertised on our website.

Being relational is one of our Trust's core values; it is central to staff recruitment, underpins our behavioural expectations and defines the teaching and learning culture at LVC. Our positive climate for learning is always commented on by external visitors to the College. We are looking forward to showcasing our amazing students at our Open Evening on Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> October and subsequent Open Mornings.

**Helena Marsh**