



ATRIUM STUDIO

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Designing the future together



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PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE



I see the major element of my role as Principal is developing the culture of the school and ensuring that ALL our students succeed. Therefore, it is essential that I create the right climate for students and staff to

- √ Teachers are knowledgeable in their subject;
- √ Teachers are friendly, approachable and are willing to listen;
- √ Teachers encourage and help me to succeed;
- √ Teachers celebrate my progress and achievements;
- √ Teachers provide me with useful feedback on my work;
- √ Teachers have a sense of humour *[and sometimes we certainly need one!]*.

perform well. If I am successful in this, our students, staff, governors and parents will thrive.

We are now entering our third year, and I hope that all visitors to our school can both see and feel Atrium's positive learning culture whenever they spend time with us.

With this in mind, I welcomed back staff and our Teaching and Learning governor, Janet Brennan, to our training day on 1st September. We worked collaboratively to decide what constitutes great teaching. The most significant impact on our learners is talented and committed teachers – the quality of education we provide cannot exceed the quality of our teachers.

Great teaching can sometimes be difficult to define. An aspect relates to our students making tremendous progress and enthusiastic teachers demonstrating consistent determination to guide them. When students find it hard to learn, great teachers think of new ways to overcome their barriers to learning.

After energetic and productive discussion, staff came up with a list of features which characterise great teaching at Atrium. We also asked our School Council and a number of students from across all year groups to produce a list, as our students are certainly best qualified to judge!

It was no surprise to me that the two lists were almost identical.

Much of the student feedback about teachers focused on developing quality, respectful relationships. Comments included:

I was pleased to welcome all our new Year 9 students to the Atrium - who have joined us from Kingsbridge Community College, Teign School, Teignmouth Community College, The Maynard School, Dawlish Community College, and South Dartmoor Community College.

We understand that it isn't easy for them to settle in to a new school, taking on board our expectations and learning culture - yet I have been amazed at their smooth transition. New students are always coming up to me and sharing how they now love their learning, and I am grateful to all my staff for providing the academic challenge, pastoral support, and individual care that children crave.

Please note that "Settling in reports" will be shared with parents and carers on 20th October.

A special welcome also to our new Sixth Form students. You have a lot to live up to after our outstanding A-Level results: a 100% pass rate! I look forward to getting to know each and every one of you during the next few weeks.

At Atrium Studio, we never forget that it's cool to succeed. My major focus for the year ahead is best summed up by Viviane Robinson (an educationalist from whom I learnt a great deal during my time in New Zealand), who wrote in 2011:

"The more leaders focus their relationships, their work, and their learning on the core business of teaching and learning, the greater will be their influence on student outcomes".

Matt Messias, Principal