

8 January 2025

Dear Parents and Carers

I hope this email finds you well. I am writing to share an update on our ongoing efforts to ensure that students with SEND receive high-quality, inclusive education and support.

SENDCo Role

Throughout the Autumn term, we conducted two recruitment campaigns to appoint a permanent full-time SENDCo, including advertising on the mainland. Unfortunately, we have yet to find the right candidate for this critical role. We plan to relaunch the recruitment process in the coming weeks and may also engage a specialist search agency to identify the best possible candidate.

Our interim SENDCo, Rebecca O'Reilly, concluded her time with us at Christmas. To maintain continuity, we have put an interim solution in place. Starting the week of 13 January, Deborah Connor, a qualified and highly experienced SENDCo, will join us to lead key areas such as annual reviews, assessment requests and exam access arrangements.

Mrs Connor will be supported by our skilled SEND management team, including Richard Stamp, who has successfully overseen the Einstein Centre for students with autism. Mr Stamp will play a pivotal role in developing and reviewing support plans for students across the school and leading staff training.

For any parental inquiries, please contact Richard Stamp at richard.stamp@carisbrooke.iow.sch.uk. He will ensure your query is directed to the appropriate person promptly.

SEND Voices: Parent Carer Forum

We are keen to involve parents and carers in improving the quality of SEND provision through a Parent Carer Forum. These forums will take place every four weeks on Wednesdays from 10:35 am to 11:35 am and will be held online for your convenience.

In the first meeting, we will discuss the IoW SEND Peer Challenge Report (October 2024) and its implications for Carisbrooke. If you are interested in joining, please email donna.keough@carisbrooke.iow.sch.uk.

Strategic Oversight

To ensure continued progress in SEND provision, I will remain the line lead for the SEND department and increase my time at Carisbrooke from three to four days per week. This will enable us to drive our improvement plans forward at pace.

I will continue to receive guidance from Clare Belli, HISP's Director of SEND, and will be held accountable for the plan's delivery by the local governors of the Academy Committee and HISP.

Thank you for your ongoing support as we work together to provide the best possible education and support for our students with SEND.

May I take this opportunity to wish you a happy new year.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'N Sheppard', with a large, stylized flourish extending to the right.

Natalie Sheppard
Interim Executive Headteacher