

Letter From the Principal's Desk

Dear Parents, and our extended Schola Nova family,

Among everything that comes home in your child's school bag, I hope this letter finds a few quiet minutes of your time. I am writing to you today not with an update or an announcement, but simply as someone who loves this school, reaching out to the families who make it what it is.

Every morning, I watch our gate open. I see students walking in with bags slung over one shoulder, some deep in conversation with friends, some still half-asleep, some pretending they are far too grown up to wave goodbye. I see a younger one glance back at the car just once, to be sure. I see a father waiting until his child has disappeared safely inside. After all these years, that sight has never once become ordinary to me. Each of those children has been placed in our care by someone who loves them more than anything in the world. We do not take that lightly. We never have.

When you chose Schola Nova for your child, you chose more than classrooms, teachers, and a Cambridge IGCSE pathway. You chose a way of doing things, a set of values, and a partnership that would walk beside your child from their first day with us to the day they leave us as young adults. At its heart, that choice was an act of trust. I want you to know how deeply we feel both the weight and the honour of it.

It is precisely because of that trust that I want to speak with you, openly and from the heart, about something that is sometimes misunderstood: the rules and routines of school life.

I know that some of our policies can feel strict. I know there are mornings when a rule feels like an inconvenience, when the traffic would not move, when a younger sibling could not find a shoe, when it seems that five minutes surely should not matter. I understand. Truly, I do. These are the ordinary pressures of family life, and none of us is a stranger to them.

But I would gently ask you to see, for a moment, what we see from where we stand. Behind every policy is a great deal of quiet thought: about fairness to every child, about safety, about consistency, and above all, about the kind of people we hope our students will become. Our rules were never meant to restrict children. They are meant to shape them, patiently, one ordinary day at a time.



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Take something as simple as arriving on time. When we hold firm on late arrivals, it is not about a register or a mark against a name. It is about the first quiet minutes of a lesson, a teacher who has prepared for a room of settled faces, and classmates who deserve to begin without interruption. When a child walks in on time, day after day, they are learning something no textbook can teach them: that commitments matter, that other people's time is precious, and that responsibility begins with small choices that no one ever applauds.

When exceptions become the norm, children notice. Children notice everything. And without anyone ever intending it, they learn that rules bend whenever they become uncomfortable. The world waiting beyond our gates will not always be so forgiving. Universities, workplaces, and even friendships ask for people who keep their word. I would so much rather our children learn that lesson here, gently, surrounded by people who love them, than learn it later, alone and the hard way.

Please do not read this as a school that does not want to hear from you. The very opposite is true. Some of the most meaningful moments of my years at Schola Nova have been conversations with parents: over a cup of tea in the office, at a parent-teacher meeting that ran long past its time, or on a phone call about a child who had seemed a little too quiet that week. When something is genuinely difficult at home, please tell us. We will listen. And where a child needs care, understanding, or a different kind of support, we will find the way forward together. That is exactly what a small, close-knit school is for. It is why we have always believed that smaller classes mean bigger opportunities, including the opportunity to truly know each family we serve.

But a partnership has two hands. We listen to you, and we ask that you trust us too, especially when a decision feels hard in the moment. When a child sees their parents and teachers standing together and speaking with one voice, they feel safe. When they sense a gap between home and school, they very quickly learn to slip through it. We are, and always have been, on the same team: yours, and your child's.



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So much of what matters most at school will never appear on a report card. Arriving on time. Keeping a promise to a teammate. Respecting a boundary. Understanding that what we do has consequences, and that we can always learn from them. These small, everyday lessons are, in the end, what "Learn to Lead" truly means to us. Leadership is not only a title, a trophy, or a result. More often, it is simply the young person everyone else knows they can rely on.

I want to be very clear about one thing. Our goal has never been to make childhood difficult. Childhood should be full of laughter, play, curiosity, and the freedom to get things wrong. Our goal is simply to prepare our children for life, and to do it lovingly, patiently, and together. That, to me, is what it means to educate with heart.

Over the years, I have watched so many of our students grow up in front of us. I have watched younger brothers and sisters follow older ones through the very same doors, and families stay with us for a decade and more. When former students come back to visit, it is rarely their grades they want to talk about. It is a teacher who believed in them, a friendship that has lasted, and sometimes, with a smile, a rule that annoyed them terribly at fourteen and made perfect sense to them at twenty-five. That smile is worth every difficult conversation.

Thank you for choosing us, and thank you for trusting us with the most precious part of your lives. We will keep working every single day to be worthy of that trust.

Because the values we reinforce today become the character our children carry tomorrow.

With heartfelt gratitude, and prayers for every one of our children!

Team Schola Nova

