

Ref: DW/KH

Date: 22 April 2026

Dear Parent / Carer,

We are pleased to inform you that Chester, our trained and experienced therapy dog, will be joining our Pupil Referral Unit (PRU) to support the emotional wellbeing, co-regulation and social development of our students.

Chester has over six years' experience working safely in school and care settings and has undergone regular health checks, training and a formal temperament assessment. All interactions with Chester will be **entirely voluntary, closely supervised by trained staff**, and delivered within a clear policy and risk assessment to ensure the safety and wellbeing of both students and Chester.

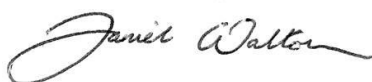
Research and experience show that therapy dogs can help reduce anxiety, support emotional regulation and promote positive social behaviours. However, we fully recognise that not all students are comfortable around dogs, and no student will ever be required to interact with Chester. It is likely that Chester will attend on a Friday to begin with, before building up his timetable.

Please take time to read the attached **Therapy Dog Policy and Risk Assessment** and **complete the consent form** to indicate whether you are happy for your child to have the opportunity to interact with Chester. Should your child have any **allergies**, medical needs or concerns relating to dogs, please record these clearly on the form.

If you have any questions or would like to discuss this further, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Thank you for your support.

Yours sincerely



Dan Walton
Headteacher