



# DENE MAGNA

Leading : Learning : Training : Technology

## Welcome to **Foley** House!

Dear Student

I am really proud to welcome you to **Foley** House. These are exciting times and in years to come I am sure that you will be proud to say you were here when all of this happened.

I want our house, **Foley**, to become the House that people want to join when they come to Dene Magna. I want us to be known as people who are fair, kind, hardworking and gentle. I want the other houses to think of us as the team to beat on sports day, the house that has the best attendance and the house that looks after each other the best.

First of all, our House is named after **Winifred Foley**. She was an authoress, who was born in 1914 in Brierley. She embodied the spirit of Dene Magna in so far as she took what she could from her childhood, youth, family and school, used it to go out into the world to learn and experience and then brought all of these skills back to the Forest. We will be hearing more about her over the coming weeks and months. She spoke of the grinding poverty in which she was brought up and the fact that her dad, because of his firm beliefs about the rights of his fellow coal miners, was often unemployed. Clearly, her own personal values were very important to her. This is something else that we share! All of these challenges never stopped her achieving. She did her best at school and at the age of 14 went to Cheltenham and then London to work in domestic service. She never did lose her love of the Forest, nor her pride from where she came.

Finally, our house motto: **Nil satis nisi optimum** (Only the best will do). As I mentioned in assembly, this isn't about having the best people in our House (although you all are the best!), but us deciding that every morning, we are going to get up and be the best we can be; the best sons and daughters, friends, students and human beings..!

This time next year we shall be closing in on winning the **Overall House Cup**. This is important to me because it will show everyone that we are achieving our goals. This will require everyone to play their part even in the smallest way – every merit, every attendance mark and every excellent piece of ILT will be important to us. So let's remember, just like **Winifred Foley**, nothing is going to stop us doing our absolute best!

Go team **Foley**!!

Mr Ashley James  
**Head of Foley House**