

Dear Parents

Re: Academy updates

As a part of our drive to continue to improve both internal and external communication and parental partnership, we are writing to give you a detailed update on the following:

- Staffing update
- Revised home/school communication system
- Family lunch initiative

Staffing update

Staff on Maternity Leave

We are delighted to say congratulations to the new or soon arrivals of:

- Miss Biggenden – Progress Leader KS4 and Performing Arts Teacher
- Miss Lingard – Head of Girls' PE
- Miss Howard – Subject Leader Art
- Mrs Wales - Progress Leader Year 7 and MFL teacher
- Mrs Astartijan – MFL teacher (from December 2016)
- Miss Noyes – KS3 Maths Leader (from January 2017)
- Mrs Furnell - Subject Leader Art (from April 2017)

Mrs Holt – Subject Leader History and Mrs Burton – Subject Leader Science returned this term on a part time basis. Mrs Burton will resume full time in January 2017.

December Leavers

At the end of this term we also say congratulations and goodbye to the following staff who are moving to new adventures:

- Mr Bond (to take up his first Headship in a Hampshire school) – Deputy Head of Academy
- Mr Seymour – Subject Leader Construction and Technologies
- Mrs Sayer – Subject Leader Performing Arts
- Mr Wright – Teacher of Product Design
- Miss Ayres – Teacher of Science
- Mrs Dain – Teacher of MFL
- Mrs Miller-Facey – Teacher of MFL

We are currently in the process of replacing the staff who are leaving at the end of this year. All new appointments should be made by end of the term.

Supply Teaching update

A small number of our staff have been off for an extended period of time due to medical reasons. We have been working in conjunction with teacher supply agencies who have been able to provide us with good quality, consistent supply teachers who have ensured that your child is not negatively affected by this uncontrollable situation. Supply teachers are working with department leaders to plan and deliver good quality lessons. We wish those staff the best of health and hope to see them fit and well in the New Year.

Revised Home/school communication system

We are pleased to share with you our revised communication system with regards to rewards and sanctions at the Academy. Currently if your child is given a detention the teacher responsible is expected to contact home to authorise the detention. Rewards and house points are currently communicated on a teacher by teacher and department by department basis. We feel however that this system needs to be more consistently and also reliably used, so that you as parents have a more positive view of how well your child is performing.

A big driver for us this year as an Academy is improving parental partnership and fostering more positive relationships within our community. We appreciate that in a Secondary school it is sometimes difficult for you as parents to get a clear picture of how your child is performing with so many teachers and other staff interacting with them. We have therefore agreed as an Academy that the tutor should, in a more explicit way, be the first point of contact for you as parents and should be the lead person who communicates with you about your child. If your child's tutor is away, their student manager will become the first point of contact. Most of our tutors are also very busy teachers however, we have therefore created an innovative, efficient, IT centred communication system which makes communication between home and school manageable and relevant.

Changes to point of contact:

Your child's tutor is expected to contact you at least once a term (big term) to give you an update on their performance and wellbeing. All rewards and sanctions will be emailed to you as they are issued, it is therefore important you ensure we have your **up-to-date email address** so we can share this information with you. Emails for sanctions will replace phone calls home and the email will count as authorisation unless otherwise discussed with your child's tutor. You will be contacted by a student manager to authorise the detention if your details are not on our system. Detentions will be escalated for students who fail to attend unless there is a valid reason.

Family lunch

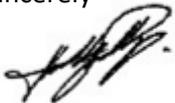
Finally, as you are aware, we moved to a split lunch system in the school which has ensured now that lunch times are calmer, less busy, food queues are faster and your child is very well supervised at those times. This new structure has created a great opportunity to increase tutor time which we have now renamed community time. This has opened a world of opportunities to us as an Academy and we are delighted to share one of them with you.

From January you will be invited to attend a **family lunch** session with your child in their community time. This will be a 30 minute session where you will have the opportunity to spend time with your child and their group, play games, share food you may have provided and generally get to know the tutor and group where your child spends a portion of their time every day. Individual invitations from tutors will follow shortly. We look forward very much to welcoming you to spend this time with us.

If you wish to discuss any of what has been outlined above, feel free to contact me on the main Academy number, 01264 405060.

If I don't get the chance to, I wish you happy holidays and a fantastic new year.

Sincerely



Abrilli Phillip