

18th December 2017

Dear Parents / Carers

Re: Academy Improvement Work



The following is as a result from feedback gained during our monthly Parents' Forum meeting and some new staffing appointments that I wanted to share with you all:

- An additional Year 9 Parents' Evening has been added to the calendar, Thursday 25th January 4-6.30pm, as an opportunity for families to see teachers to discuss progress made so far this year
- Year 12 and 13 have a Parents' Evening now arranged for Thursday 25th January; further details to follow in the New Year
- A first round of reports have been sent home to parents. These have been adjusted to include a brief comment from Heads of Year and give an overview of projected progress so far this academic year
- The original 'Assessment Calendar' has now been reworked with heads of faculty and departments. It was felt too much pressure was being placed on students in quite intensive windows of time. Teachers now ensure they assess two pieces of work per half term and it is expected that one of these would have more detailed 'yellow box improvement' feedback
- A successful pilot has taken place over the last few weeks using the 'School Gateway' App. This can be used through all Smart phones and tablet devices. Further details will follow for all families in the New Year
- A new curriculum is in place for Years 7 to 9 and timetables have been reissued for January
- There is to be a change, from January, to form group locations to zone students with their year teams
- A new member staff joins us as Director of mathematics from 3rd January. Steve Taylor has a wealth of experience leading maths teams and he is very much looking forward to being part of our team
- Dave Plant, seconded as Vice Principal for two terms from Blue Coat Academy, will head up the strategy for Attendance, Behaviour and Inclusion. This area remains an important priority: improving attendance whilst reducing our levels of persistent absence
- A new Attendance Manager joins from 3rd January. Olivia Glackin will support the work of the pastoral teams, particularly with parental engagement and outreach work, but also in supporting current tracking and rewards linked directly to excellent attendance and punctuality
- Mr Allsopp, Vice Principal, will continue his work surrounding student progress with a greater emphasis on the teaching and learning strategy
- Two internal staffing changes from January: Congratulations go to Mr Mitchell, our new Head of Year 11 and Mr Francis, our new Head of Sixth Form. Both roles increase capacity within the academy to ensure our drive for student progress and welfare remains at the core.

I would like to take this opportunity to invite you along to join our next Parents' Forum meeting in the New Year. This will be held on Monday 15th January, 6-7pm. We will endeavour to bring you up to date with the progress of the Statement of Action, our academy improvement document, plus anything else you would like to discuss.

As always, your support and feedback is welcomed. If you would like to discuss any of the work we are completing please contact the academy via our PA lheelis@suacademy.co.uk

Yours sincerely

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