

Easter Term Newsletter

April 2022

Heads Report

It has been a very busy and exciting time since our last report. We still await the draft report from the education Ofsted visit in March. This visit went very well and I am very keen to share the final report with you when we finally receive it.

We are also eager for the return of the Ofsted Social care inspectors. We have recently been informed that we will be having a new Lead Inspector this year who has never been to the school before. There has been a huge amount of work done over the past few months to continue the improvements already seen. One of the most positive elements from the last few weeks has been the increased success in recruitment. We currently have a pipeline of 17 staff waiting to join the permanent team. This includes 7 new staff to the school with the remainder consisting of some of our long-term agency staff who have elected to come permanent. This is a real positive for me as it demonstrates the team spirit and working that has made them wish to stay with us. I am also very happy to welcome back some recent leavers back into the team. A real positive is our retention is also improving with no leavers over the last couple of months.

There are a number of plans starting to come to fruition over the next term. This includes the café works starting in the old dining hall. We eventually had the equipment delivered and will be installed once the rooms have been remodeled. I will be sending out an invite for you to join me in another Parent Information Evening that I will be holding on Thursday 5th May. You are welcome to join me on site in the Chapel, but a link will be sent out so you can join me remotely if you are not able to make it in person. This will be an opportunity for me to talk through some of the developments that are currently ongoing.

We will also be welcoming a new young person to our student body and I look forward to them joining us soon.

I would like to wish you all a Happy Easter.

“Spring is the time of Plans and Projects” (Leo Tolstoy)

Dates for your diary

25th April 2022 – Teacher Training Day

26th April 2022 – Classes re-open for Summer Term

2nd May 2022 – Bank Holiday (Classes open)

5th May 2022 – Evening Parents Forum – Invitations will be sent shortly

30th May – 10th June 2022 – Half Term Break

13th June 2022 – Classes open

11th July – 15th July – Classes closed for Midterm break

11th August – 31st August – Classes closed for Summer Break

1st September 2022 – Teacher Training Day

2nd September 2022 – Teacher Training Day

5th September 2022 – Classes Open





Supportive Services

Welcoming Smartbox to PVS



At PVS we were able to work alongside Smartbox to look at communication aids to support our young people. On 9th March, Smartbox staff visited PVS and brought with them a range of high-tech communication aids (tablets) including grid players. Grid players include core vocabulary paired with images to help support young people to express their needs.

Smartbox worked with the Speech and Language Therapy team, Care and Education teams to support 9 students to briefly trial these high-tech aids. All young people engaged well and it was believed that they would benefit from using high tech aids as communication tools. As it stands we are waiting for loans of these communication tools to assess and observe if our young people would use these high-tech aids consistently to communicate. Having a loan is essential so we can gather evidence via photos and videos and support consistent use of tablets then we can present this evidence to the young person's local authorities to prove that they would improve quality of young person's life.

We are excited to be part of this pioneering project and look forward to working towards supporting our young people by giving them another way to communicate their needs.

Head of Education

You will all have received the End of Term Newsletter from our Head of Education, Nicola Sheppard, which gave a comprehensive oversight of the past term.

We continue await, with baited breath, our report from the OFSTED Education visit, watch this space for updates and results as soon as we receive it.

Once again, we would like to Congratulate Nikki Hole on her new role as Assistant Head. We are also pleased to be able to confirm the appointment of two new Teaching Assistants and one Teacher all to start in September.

Warm Welcomes



Very warm welcome to some new team members – Joining our permanent team of amazing Care Support Workers will be;

Sarah Adekunle, Collins Walter, Philip Anyiador, Oladipo Elegbe, Adeola Oluwatoba, Paul Odey, Abimbola Agboola, Ogechukwu Lucky Okobu, Patrick Onyealusi, Rashid Mohammed, Sam Pitcher, Russell Thompson and Nicole New.

Returning to our Care Team – Maria Simpson-Cadman.

Returning to the Kitchen – Christopher Appleby.





Finally, to close this Terms News letters we would like to say a big thank you to the following teams –

Maintenance and Domestic Teams

For the ongoing work to keep and update the site with painting, decorating, general maintenance support and deep cleaning of various areas of the school. This has been acknowledged by external visitors who have noted the ongoing improvements

Kitchen Team

Who are keeping the young people fed and watered, providing good nutritious menus.

Pleased to be able to update that the Main Kitchen has been upgraded with new flooring throughout – thank you to the team for supporting this to happen as well as to the houses for managing their own food needs over the holidays to ensure this can be completed.

Admin Team

Who continue to support all departments with their administrative needs, welcoming visitors onto site and ensuring that the reception area remains a tidy, welcoming environment.

In addition, acknowledgement of all the hard work and dedication from all staff working with the young people on a daily basis as well as those working tirelessly behind the scenes (though more often than not supporting hands on at the drop of a hat) within the Supportive Services, Care, Education and Senior Leadership Teams.

As always, please contact me if you have any questions.

Best wishes

