



What Next?

I wrote in last week's newsletter of the achievements and changes made over the last year. This week I should like to outline some of the plans we have for the immediate future.

Clearly continuing to make progress through Special Measures remains our main focus. Ofsted have given us fresh issues to work on at each visit and following the May visit we are now concentrating efforts on assessment and the use of the data it creates to further improve planning of lessons. We were also asked to continue to improve teaching so that more lessons are now good than satisfactory. To achieve this we have made some alterations to the management responsibilities of the leadership group.

I also explained last week about the new Academic Tutoring system and this is part of our work to further improve student progress tracking. We will continue to set targets with students and make them more involved in the process.

The management of the school will be reviewed this year: the IEB have commissioned an independent review of our systems and structures and the IEB itself will begin the process of working with a shadow governing body next month, eventually handing over to them in April.

We are continuing to improve our intervention work, by which we mean the extra support that we give to students at certain times during their time at the school. This might be during an examination year, or when they first join us, or perhaps if they start to slip behind with their work.

Our partnership work with The King's School has started this term and will build up over the next year. We will also be doing joint training during the year with all the other secondary schools.

The current Year 11 will be the first cohort to apply for Sixth Form courses through the new Common Application Process. We are working with the other Peterborough schools on this new initiative. We are in a similar way also working on new courses for both Key Stage 4 and the Sixth Form to ensure that students have available what they need to progress with their education after Year 11; this is partly due to the requirement for Years 8 and 7 to stay in education or training after age 16.

We also plan to complete our Chapel this year by furnishing it and considering how best to use this excellent facility. This was something that we did not want to rush when we moved into the new school.

And there will be much more. As we go through the year we will keep you informed of progress and future plans.

Cognitive Ability Tests

Year 7 students have this week been sitting Cognitive Ability Tests. These are a type of baseline assessment which many schools use to assist in providing work that is at the right level for students. Unlike SATs these assessments can be taken at any time and so may well be repeated in Year 9 to give an additional measure. There are three tests - verbal, non-verbal and quantitative - and they are marked externally. The results are not meaningful to students so we do not usually share this information with them but the tests will identify the students as above or below average. They should be thought of more as tests of natural ability than of what they have learnt so far. For this reason there is no need to practice or revise for the tests. In previous years we have used them with the Sixth Form but this year we have changed over to ALIS for the Sixth Form and those parents have had a separate letter detailing this change.

Happy Anniversary

Our congratulations to the parishioners of St Luke's in Orton Malborne who celebrated the 20th Anniversary of the opening of their church last weekend. I was able to attend the wonderful Mass on Sunday morning and pleased to see such a vibrant and packed church.

The Big Tidy Up

I was asked to publicise to parents a Big Tidy up that was planned for Park Lane and Saxon Road for yesterday but unfortunately the details only came into school this week. I do hope that it is successful - perhaps you noticed a difference as you came to school today!

Closure Reminders

Please remember that next Friday, 2nd October, is a staff training day so the school is closed. The following week we have our annual Open Evening on the Thursday and students will be dismissed at 2.00. Students who need to remain at school until 3.30 may do so but should tell their form tutor in advance. Those that have been asked to help at the Open Evening are bringing home separate letters about this. Sixth Form students will be helping as guides for this evening. This is our first Open Evening at the Park Lane site and we are keen to show off our new school. More about Open Evening next week.

I hope you have a good week.

Sean Hayes

Uniform

Unfortunately a number of students are wearing black canvas plimsolls or black trainers to school. These are not an acceptable part of our school uniform. I would also remind you that the correct PE kit should be worn for all PE lessons. Our school uniform is:

Boys

Black blazer with badge
White shirt
School tie
V neck plain black jumper
Black trousers (classic uniform style)
Sensible black shoes
Grey or black socks
Sikh boys may wear a plain black turban
Plain dark coat

Girls

Black blazer with badge
White shirt
School tie
V neck plain black jumper
Knee length black skirt (classic uniform style)
or Black trousers (classic uniform style)
Sensible black shoes
Black socks or black tights
Muslim girls may wear a plain black headscarf
Plain dark coat

Outdoor Sportswear (for boys and girls)

School rugby top
Black shorts
Red socks
Boots
Black tracksuit bottoms (optional)

Indoor Sportswear (for boys and girls)

School polo shirt
Black shorts
White socks
Indoor training shoes

If you need clarification on any school uniform matters, our Student Support Officers are only too keen to advise. Our school uniform/PE kit provider is ChromaSport, 10 Wulfric Square, Bretton, Peterborough, PE3 8RF. Their telephone number is 01733 262526 and their website address is: www.chromasport.co.uk. School tie and badges can be purchased direct from School.

Attendance

Congratulations to the 349 students who are still in line to receive a 100% attendance prize at half term. I would encourage all those students to maintain this excellent level of attendance.

Healthy, Safer Lifestyles

On Monday 28 September we will collapse our normal timetable for Year 11 students who will be taking part in a PSHE Day on the theme of "Healthy, Safer Lifestyles". The day includes discussion, activities and presentations on the subject of relationships, living responsibly and living in partnership. The day is part of our SRE programme. If you require any further information about the specific content of this day, please contact Mrs Pereira on 01733 343646.

Sports News

Amy Gilbert, Mikie Rose and Liam Kerr Gray (Year 11) took part in some sports leadership at St Thomas More on Friday after school as part of their Junior Sports Leader Award. This involved assisting and leading small groups of children participating in numerous games and activities. This will continue every Friday over the coming weeks. Congratulations go to our Year 10 boys' football team who beat a team from The King's School 3-2 on Monday in their first match of the season. Well done!

Year 8 Student Librarians

The following Year 8 students have been appointed as Student Librarians for the current academic year: Thanushiya Konesalingam, Maria Khan, Zarka Razaq and Rameen Haider. Our congratulations go to them.

Reading Matters

Students joining Year 7 this year are eligible to receive a free book of their choice from a selection of 12 current fiction titles. This DCSF initiative, which is called "Booked Up", is now in its third year and has proved to be popular with our enthusiastic Year 7 readers. It is hoped that students who have read their chosen book will arrange to swap books with friends and classmates, so that they can enjoy a wider reading experience. A copy of each of the books on offer is available for loan from the Library.

Parent Champion

In his role as Parent Champion, Father David will be available to see parents on Wednesday 30 September at 3.30pm. Father David may be contacted by phoning him direct on 01733-562528 ext 5, or by email at frdavidallsouls@hotmail.com



Just a reminder to keep saving shoeboxes for the Operation Christmas Child Shoebox Appeal. Further details soon.
