



Blue Coat Church of England Academy

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Principal: Mr D Smith

13th September 2019

Dear Parent/Carer,

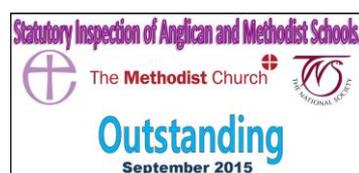
Unfortunately the new school year has started with the very sad news that, after a long illness, Mrs Mayele, a teacher of French and Spanish, died shortly after the end of last term. I know many of the children will have very fond memories of her and she will be greatly missed by all members of the school community. We will be making arrangements later this term to hold a service to acknowledge and celebrate Mrs Mayele's contribution to the school and to install a lasting memorial in her name.

Staffing Update

At the end of last term we said farewell to a number of staff who have been appointed to posts due to promotions and relocation. I would like to thank Mrs Everitt (Assistant Principal), Mr Harper (Head of Year), Mr Muldoon (Associate Head of Mathematics) and Miss Young (Teacher of P.E.) for all of their hard work and dedication to Blue Coat and wish them well in their new posts. We also said farewell to Mr and Mrs Plant, who have both taken a richly deserved retirement after many years of service working as a Site Supervisor and Lunchtime Supervisor respectively. I am very grateful for all of the hard work and commitment they gave in their roles and wish them well for their retirement.

At the beginning of term, we welcomed a number of new staff to the school: Mrs Devlin (Assistant Principal), Miss Horton (Teacher of EAL & SEN), Mr Ledger (Teacher of Geography), Mrs Pardoe (Assistant Principal), Miss Payne (Teacher of History), Mr Stubbs (Teacher of Mathematics), Mrs Teladia (Teacher of R.E.) and Miss Zahid (Teaching Assistant). I would like to wish them all well in their new roles.

Mrs Owen has been appointed as an Associate Principal. We have reorganised the Senior Leadership Team, primarily to ensure that we have sufficient capacity to continue to develop and improve the school, whilst also allowing us to meet the increasing demands and pressures of running the business side of the academy. Mrs Owen will be taking on an increased responsibility for day to day operations, which will allow me to focus on ensuring that more strategic developments for the medium and long term are well planned for, to provide the very best opportunities and provision for the pupils at Blue Coat.



School Site Developments

Over the course of the summer a substantial amount of work has been completed around the school, including the conclusion of the project to replace windows in the Grove building, redecoration and replacement of floor coverings and the installation of a covered area in the quad area next to the school canteen, which will provide more shelter for pupils during inclement weather. I am also pleased to be able to report that the long awaited refurbishment of the Tonks' Building also started at the beginning of the summer holidays. Temporary classrooms have been installed, along with a compound for the contractors, MIDAS. While this will present challenges in the short term, the conclusion of the project, over the course of the next year, will provide significantly enhanced accommodation and a much better learning environment for pupils.

Online Payments

We would like to remind parents that we have an online payment system in operation, which can be used for paying for such things as school meals, school trips and music lessons. To set up an account, parents need to go to the 'Parents' tab on the school website (www.bluecoatacademy.org) and select 'Online Payments'. It really helps us if parents use this as an alternative to sending money into school. If help is needed with registering for an account, please contact Mrs Deeming or Mrs Jordanou.

Communication

Our school website is regularly updated with information for parents. I would encourage you to regularly visit the website for the latest information. Letters to parents are not generally sent as paper copies but will be emailed and posted on the school website. It is vital that we have the most up to date contact details for parents/carers to ensure that communications are appropriately directed. If you have recently changed your mobile phone number or email address, please let us know.

We also have a new mobile phone app which has been designed to link in with the new school website. TheParentApp is available for iPhone and Andriod and can be downloaded for free from the App Store or Google Play Store. Once downloaded, simply select Blue Coat Church of England Academy and choose the year groups you would like to receive alerts for.

We are also trialling another mobile app which allows parents to access details about behaviour, achievements and attendance for their child. If successful, we will be rolling the SIMs Parent app out to all parents later this term.

We are very proud of the achievements of the pupils who completed their qualifications in Years 11 and 13 this summer. I am sure the coming year will provide opportunities for pupils to achieve even better results and look forward to working with parents/carers to ensure that our young people are as well prepared as possible for the examinations, which will come round all too quickly, next summer.

Yours faithfully,



Mr D Smith
Principal