

Executive Principal: Mrs S Martin Principal: Miss C Smith

> Reeves Way Peterborough PE1 5LQ

Tel: 01733 821403

Email: admin@medeshamstedeacademy.org Website: www. medeshamstedeacademy.org @MedeshamstedeAC

Ref:NM/Whsch

Wednesday 29 March 2023

Dear Parent/Carer,

RE: Spring News letter

As we approach the end of term, I wanted to provide some updates on the academy.

Academy Updates:

Staffing update

At the end of term some staff members will be moving on to pastures new and we will be joined by some new members of the team after Easter. Mr English will be retiring at the end of the term; we wish him all the best in a restful and enjoyable retirement. Ms Callis and Mrs Knight will both be leaving us, moving on to new opportunities in other schools. In our support staff Mrs Ablett will be moving on to a new role in another school, we wish them all every success.

In April Mr Dominic Seamer will be joining the academy as permanent Deputy Principal for Curriculum, followed by Mr James Husbands in May as Deputy Principal for Pastoral, Behaviour and Attendance. Ms Zoe Kirby Interim Deputy Principal will be staying with us for the half term in her role as Pastoral and Behaviour ensuring a smooth handover. Both Mr Seamer and Mr Husbands have a wealth of knowledge and experience in special education with them and we look forward to welcoming them to the Senior Leadership team. Another a new member of staff we will be welcoming after Easter is Mr Chris Davitt who will be our full time P.E teacher. Mrs Lindsey Bovis, who many may know as Teaching Assistant in Orange class has returned to Teaching and will be the new class Teacher for a new class opening in Primary after Easter, she will be joined by Miss Nuria Lima who has been working with us already on supply and is now joining the team permanently. Mrs Kiera Bruseke-Palmer Primary Phase Leader will also be Class Teacher for Aqua class from Easter. We also welcome Ms Charlene Tolcher who will be supporting Aqua class as a Teaching Assistant.

Mrs Sarah Martin who has been Executive Principal of Medeshamstede Academy this academic year has successfully secured a promotion of Education Director Special Provision for the Trust. Mrs Martin will still be working very closely with Medeshamstede Academy on our journey of improvements as well as supporting all Special Provisions across the Trust, the Academy wish her all the best in her new role.

Behaviour Expectations

So far, this academic year we have seen improved behaviour each half-term including a calmer environment and more students engaging in purposeful learning activities. We will continue to work with staff, students, and their families where they are finding this difficult. I want to take this time to

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devices stay at home, or families come and collect the items from school site as per safeguarding protocols.

Over the last half term uniform has started to slip, with many non-uniform items of clothing being worn we request that all students wear an academy jumper, black school trousers or unbranded/slogan jogging bottoms, black school shoes or trainers. An increasing number of snoods and hoodies are being worn in school and we request that these are not worn in school as per the uniform policy. If any parent/carer would like to discuss the uniform, please do not hesitate in contacting the school for further conversations.

The Academy appreciates the expense uniforms can pose if any family is experiencing any difficulties, please ring the main admin office where we have some items of pre-owned uniform or can support with some costs. If your child has outgrown any school uniform, we would appreciate any donations for our uniform bank.

Attendance

Overall student attendance in school has risen slightly since last term to 84% but this is well below government expectations. If you need support with attendance, please speak to your child's class teacher in the first instance and our pastoral team Ms Kirby, Mr Ringrose and Mrs Briggs are also here to help.

Achievements

In January a number of Year 11 and Year 10 students took their Functional Skills English exams. All students who took the exams passed either Functional Skills Level 1 or 2. The Academy is extremely proud of the students and their achievements. Year 11 students continue to study for further Functional Skills and GCSE exams, a separate letter to Year 11 parents with dates of all exams will be sent out.

Over the last term the academy has enjoyed many theme days. There was the very successful World Book Day, it was fantastic to see how many students and staff dressed up as favourite characters. Classes across the academy engaged in a day of literature activities. Primary influenced by 'Charlie and the Chocolate Factory' and Secondary inspired by the beautiful text 'The Lost Words'. Families accessed a reading and phonics workshop later in the afternoon. We also supported Red Nose Day and Careers Day. On Careers Day staff dressed up as a variety of careers roles from a 'POSH' Footballer, waiters, and a school Catering Manager.

Finally, I'd like to wish all our students, families, and staff a well-earned and restful Easter. School will be back open for all students on Monday 17th April where I look forward to a busy term and better weather.

Kind Regards

Yours sincerely

Miss C Smith Principal

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