

*To enable all children to achieve, participate and contribute to their community for life'*

*Kindness*

*Inclusivity*

*Resilience*

*Respect*

*Openness*

*Understanding*

*Empathy*



## Newsletter

Friday 28<sup>th</sup> May 2021.

Dear Parents and Carers,

It does not seem any time at all since I was writing the newsletter at the beginning of this half term. It has been a busy and productive summer half term and the Academy community has been working hard to achieve their goals.

Unfortunately, we have had an unusual amount of staff absence this term. I think this is partly due to covid-safety and our immune systems not being used to viruses for quite some time. Most staff have now received their Covid vaccinations. I would like to reassure parents, if we did have a confirmed Covid-19 case at the Academy parents would be informed and pupils affected asked to self-isolate. To date, we have had no confirmed pupil or staff cases. We continue to take covid-safety measures very seriously, treading cautiously along the road map after lockdown.

I wrote to you in April about our plans to recruit occupational and speech and language therapists to work alongside teachers and staff teams. This will ensure provision of pupils' EHC Plans within our intent to deliver a holistic curriculum integrating therapies into daily curriculum delivery. Unfortunately, we are still to recruit, however, continue to pursue these posts.

Sadly, Mr Allen, Ms Cave and Mr Howick will be leaving us. Mr Allen leaves at the end of this year. He has been with us for nearly 10 years beginning his career as a teaching assistant, completing his teacher training and newly qualified teacher status and has now secured a role with responsibility for assessment. Ms Cave moves to a mainstream setting working with early years, gaining further experience before pursuing training to become a teacher. Mr Howick, who has led outdoor learning, will be working with adults in his new venture. Our hearty congratulations to them all for securing roles most fully deserved in taking next steps within their professional development and careers. I wish them well and I hope their new organisations see what great people they will be gaining. Our very best wishes for their future endeavours go to them all.

At Medeshamstede, we interviewed last week to develop capacity within our senior leadership structure and successfully recruited 2 deputy principals. The deputies will work closely together. Our pupil council formed part of this process along with parents from the Academy Advisory Council. Feedback about our pupil council panel (Magpie class this term) was that they were exceptional when interviewing candidates. The classroom was turned into a boardroom layout and their questions posed and notes taken were most impressive, along with escorting candidates around the academy. This is a great experience in preparing our pupils for the world of work and pupils represented our academy magnificently.

I am excited to develop our senior and middle leadership structure and add capacity to the staff team here at Medeshamstede. I will announce appointments officially next term.

In the meantime, congratulations to Mr Clive Whittingham who we welcome as a permanent teacher with responsibility for maths and science in our secondary phase. Mr Whittingham has been working with us for a while now and has built a firm connection with pupils, really bringing learning alive in these subjects. He has

achieved great things this term, ensuring pupils are not missing out within their education after disruption of the pandemic.

### **Launch of Medeshamstede Learning Centre**

On Tuesday, Mr Spalding and I attended the local authority SENCO Network to launch the Medeshamstede Learning Centre across Peterborough for schools and other professionals. The Autism Education Trust (AET) training is a framework we offer for people working with autistic pupils in all settings from early years to post-16. After a focus this year on developing Good Autism Practice in our own Academy, training delivery will now begin to outside organisations.

Mrs Toshack has been accepted onto the Careers Leader Programme and will become our named Careers Leader. This programme will enable us to create and deliver a successful whole-school careers strategy, achieving the Quality in Careers Award for our Academy and the eight Gatsby Benchmarks as indicators of good careers practice in schools. This compliments her work as EHCP Co-ordinator and pupil welfare leader, in preparing pupils for adulthood and future aspirations; a golden thread running through pupils' EHC Plans.

Our whole academy essential skill this term, as part of the Universal Skills Builder Framework Partnership, is 'speaking'. Teachers will give tight focus on specific skill steps of Speaking, according to pupils individual learning needs, preparing pupils well for their next steps in education, adulthood and employment. The Skills Builder Universal Framework shows how to build essential skills at every stage of life. At Medeshamstede Academy, we believe that employability skills need to be developed early and explicitly taught as part of our curriculum, which is why we are part of this partnership.



### **Year 11 pupils**

A priority for the summer term has been the Accreditation pathways for our key stage 4 pupils. Some will sit maths, reading and writing exam papers in the first weeks after half term and teacher assessment has been taking place for course work. Year 11 pupils have done us proud, overcoming a disrupted 15 months through the pandemic to complete their courses of study. Year 11 will return after half term and parents may choose for their child to finish school on Friday 18<sup>th</sup> June. After this date we continue with a remote blended learning offer for Year 11 to focus further on preparation for college and adulthood with their staff team. We will of course be celebrating the end of their time with us and further details will follow. It is always with mixed emotions that we say goodbye to pupils as they go on to their next stage of education. They will thrive on their continued journey and have grown to become young adults that we are exceptionally proud of.

Finally, we are excited to announce that we have arranged for a "Treat " on Friday 18<sup>th</sup> June. An Ice-Cream van will be visiting the academy and will be providing a free ice-cream or ice-lolly for each of our pupils. Further details will be provided through a letter shortly.

Have a safe and happy half term.

Warm regards,



Mrs Laura Ives  
(Principal)