



HIGHFIELD LITTLEPORT ACADEMY

An Active Learning Trust School

Executive Headteacher: Simon Bainbridge
Head of School: Yvonne Skillern

Wednesday 22nd January 2020

Dear Parent/Carer,

Welcome to the Spring term – let's hope the weather starts to improve soon! The students have all returned to school happy and ready to continue learning.

I have some exciting news to share with you all. A grant application was submitted to the St James Charitable Foundation for funds to build a sensory garden. We were successful in gaining just over £9500! Keep an eye out in the local newspapers, as the news will be publicised soon. Here at school are now in the process of asking the students what they would like to include in the sensory garden to get their views and we will start the planning. This will have a huge impact on our students and we cannot wait to get started. Students within our KS4 will be working towards accredited qualifications while taking part in the project. A big thank you to Jo Pearson one of our supporters for helping us obtain this grant.

You will have received a letter a few weeks ago regarding communication here at school. We value the partnership between home and school and are excited to be using both Evidence for Learning and Class Dojo in order to maintain that positive link. If you do not have access to Evidence for Learning please contact the office with an up to date email that we can add to our system. You will then be sent a secure link where you can view everyday learning at school, comment and add learning from home. We will use Evidence for Learning to communicate learning and progress with home and Class Dojo for information sharing.

Our development priorities for the coming months are:

- To facilitate good or better progress through great teaching and close assessment tracking
- Manage carefully the growth of the academy by grouping students appropriately and opening new classes as and when demand dictates
- Develop a more personalised, broad and balanced curriculum focussing on each students EHCP outcomes including Life Skills provision and Key Stage 4
- Develop our provision and teaching of the arts to facilitate progress and enhance our curriculum provision

Some parents expressed a request for more information around the assessment systems we use in order to decide next steps for our students. In order to assist with this we have put together the attached documents in order to explain further. These next steps are identified on our Evidence for Learning software so you can see how the evidence we collect and work completed links with these. You will have a copy of the appropriate document related to the pathway in which your child is following. If you have any questions about this please do not hesitate to ask.

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At Highfield Littleport, we have an active friends and parents association called Supporters of Highfield Littleport Academy (SOHLA). They are working hard to meet their fundraising goal to fill the playground with lots of new equipment and help develop our sensory garden. The group are in desperate need of support so if you are able to help in any way either large or small please email our joint chairpersons Anita Thursby and Mandy Darville on ptachair@highfieldlittleport.org

In order for us to continue our enriched curriculum and fund activities such as cooking, sensory play and visits to the community, we rely upon the support of parents and carers. We request that parents and carers pay a voluntary contribution of £5 per term via Parent Pay in order to support this. Without these contributions, elements of our provision will sadly have to stop.

We are constantly working to engage parents and carers within school life and seek to gain your suggestions and views. We have posted a link to an online survey for you to give your views of our school. Please ensure this is completed by Friday 10th February 2020 at the latest please. If you have requested a paper copy via Class Dojo this will be sent to you along with this letter. The survey can be found by following this link: <https://forms.gle/GAtucduo8PPpXK7F6>

Just to finish a few housekeeping notes. Could you please ensure each child has their PE kit left in school all week? We will send it home when it needs washing or re-sizing! Please ensure students in Swallows class have wellies and appropriate outdoor clothing for their Forest School sessions this term, in school at all times. In addition, attendance at school is extremely important to facilitate good progress and wellbeing. We would encourage you to support us with this and in helping us to maintain our baseline target of 92% attendance as a school. Attendance levels are continually monitored and any persistent absences mean that the school and local authority will take action.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Yvonne Skillern', with a horizontal line extending to the right.

Yvonne Skillern
Head of School

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