

19<sup>th</sup> June 2023

Dear Parent/Carer

**Re: Site and staffing updates**

It has been a busy term working on the Academy's building and staffing. I thought you would like to be updated.

Site updates

You no doubt will have noticed the large amount of scaffolding on the main building – this is now starting to come down. This represents the completion of a 4-month project to replace the roof on the front elevation of the main building. This £200k project represents phase 1 of 4 over the next few years to replace all the roofs on the main building. We are hoping to start the replacement of the hall roof over the summer.

Also completed this term has been phase 2 of 3 in replacing doors across the site, at a project cost of £60k. This project not only improves the aesthetics of many rooms, but also improves fire protection. In addition, a £35k project to replace many older light fittings with new LED lighting has been completed. We replaced one of our boilers last year and we are just in the middle of replacing a second one (£20k).

All these major projects have been essential in improving the quality and safety of the building. In addition, aesthetics have improved as well as much needed energy efficiency. Despite nearly tripling the budget allocation this year to cover rising energy costs, we have still been a quarter of a million-pound short in the amount needed to pay for the gas and electric. Staggering increases in costs to the school are having to be met by school budgets that are not rising at anywhere near the same rate. The school has been supported by Shaw Education Trust to fund the above projects.

Starting this week is a £180k project to completely revamp one of our toilet facilities. The work will start now and be completed over the summer, meaning that the students will come back to brand new toilet facilities in September. The project will vastly increase the number of toilets and improve accessibility and safety to all students when needing to use the facilities. Additional features such as 'vape detectors' are being installed to ensure the toilets are there for students to use purely as they are designed to be.

My next project, that I am just in the planning phase of, is a £140k project to completely replace and significantly improve the IT network and wireless capability across the school. This is needed so that we can progress our digital strategy in school. My vision is to put 1-2-1 devices in the hands of the students (i.e. personal tablets/iPad for all children). More on this as the project develops over the coming months.

Staffing updates

Just before May half term in schools across the country is the busiest time for teacher recruitment – indeed it can be akin to the football transfer window! In some subject areas there are simply not enough teachers to fill all vacancies. I am therefore delighted to inform you that we are fully staffed with teachers in readiness for September. We welcome:

Miss Bamber – Science  
Ms Jackson-Hedges – English

Mrs Goodstadt – Reading provision  
Miss Johnson – Performing Arts

Miss Harvey – Science  
Miss Wright – Computing

Some of these appointments represent replacements, whereas some represent additional capacity – specifically in Science and Reading provision. We also welcome back Mrs Meir in Humanities as she returns from her maternity leave.

Of those staff moving on to pastures new, I would like to mention specifically a few members of staff. Mr Wilkinson (Computing and Business), Mrs Blower (Cover Supervisor) and Mrs Sumner (Admin/Student reception) have all decided that they will retire this summer. Their collective contribution covers multiple decades of service and 1000s of children over the years. We wish them all the very best and hope they enjoy a long and happy retirement.

I would also like to wish Mrs Bott (Performing Arts) all the very best. Mrs Bott is expecting her first child very soon and hence will leave us for a short amount of time whilst enjoying her maternity leave.

I hope you have found this update of use.

Your sincerely



Mark Boughey  
**Principal**

