



25 March 2022

The Apple Press

School Updates and Communications

Dear Parents/Carers,

I would like to begin my first newsletter with a huge thank you everyone's messages of support and for making contact to arrange a meeting with me. I look forward to meeting as many parents as possible and I hope that you will be able to join one of the below opportunities:

Meet the Leadership Team – Parent Coffee Morning

Tuesday 5th April 2022 at 9:30am

Drop-in Sessions on Teams

Friday 25th March 2022 at 2:00pm (Join via this [link](#))

Wednesday 30th March 2022 at 5:00pm (Join via this [link](#))

School Improvement

We have achieved our renewal of Quality Mark™!

'Quality Mark is an internationally acknowledged accreditation supporting and recognising improving standards in provision, practice and performance of English and mathematics, and providing evidence of high-quality education'

We have been working very hard to improve English and Maths training and development and this is having a positive impact on the quality of teaching and learning. We have implemented Powermaths as a Maths scheme which teachers are finding very supportive and useful. A recent visit from Quality Mark™ commended us for our excellent assessment systems and use of resources to support pupil learning. Justin Luscombe, our Maths lead, led the process and is very proud that we have been able to achieve this award. It really recognises the hard work teachers are putting in to develop our approach to teaching English and Maths.

Last year, we identified as a school that we wanted to develop the knowledge and skill in developing SEN expertise. To do this, we are developing a holistic assessment system to track progress against pupils' EHCPs and annual review targets, so that we are confident that we are supporting children to make progress in their areas of need. You will see how we are using these systems through annual reviews, parent's evenings and annual reports.

To support this, teachers have been working on techniques for understanding behaviour as a form of communication. Last term, the teaching and residential teams had training with Rob Long, an educational psychologist to help us develop our relational approach to positive behaviour management.

We have also commissioned an Occupational Therapist who is working with key staff on developing our sensory understanding and environments across the school.

Staff News

It has been an exciting and busy time for our recruitment, with lots of new appointments being made. We are really looking forward to welcoming many new staff to our team this year!

You may be aware that Freya Ballantyne, one of our Year 8 teachers, moved to a new teaching post at February half-term and we wish her well in her new post. After undergoing a rigorous recruitment process, we would like to welcome Chris Nichols to our team who will be starting with us in the Summer Term (subject to recruitment checks). Chris is an experienced teacher who has been working at our school on supply, teaching English.

We are using some of our Sport Premium funding to expand our PE offer for this year. We have appointed a temporary additional PE Teacher who will be a fantastic addition to the team. The PE department continues to focus on developing physical fitness and strength as part of our overall wellbeing strategy.

We continue to be an oversubscribed and popular choice for parents and the Local Authority. We are delighted that we have some younger pupils joining us which means we will be creating some new classes and appointing more staff. We will be welcoming an additional EYFS teacher to the team in the summer term as we expand this area of the school.

Pupil News

If you have been following our social media channels, you will be aware that one of our pupils, Nicolas, completed a 100 mile cycle challenge to raise money for the school's Parents, Staff and Friends Association. With your kind support and donations, Nicolas has raised over £1,000 which will go towards 'Mindfulness Benches' for our school site. Well done Nic!

In addition to this, Sam, one of our Year 11 pupils is aiming to complete a half marathon walk to raise money for the Red Cross Ukraine Crisis Appeal. If you would like to make a donation, you can do so by following this [link](#).



Dates for your Diary

Friday 20th May	Jubilee Day
Friday 8th July	Summer Fete
	Sports Day
	Parents Evening
	Prom

I hope you all have a wonderful weekend and enjoy the sun!

Nicola Jones, Headteacher