

29 January 2010

Dear Parent/Carer

As you are aware, the White Hills Park Federation has seen a great deal of change since its formation in September 2007. Since that time, marked improvements have been made in the quality of the education we provide to our students.

- GCSE results have improved across the Federation, for example the percentage of students gaining 5+ A*-C has risen from 47% in 2007 to 65% in 2009.
- A House system was launched in September 2009 which has become a focal point for enrichment activities and other out of class opportunities.
- The range and number of trips and educational visits has almost doubled since 2007.
- Additional classes, extra tuition in the evenings, holidays and weekends and small group sessions have accelerated the learning of students of all ages and abilities.
- Class size in all years has been reduced.
- The range of curriculum opportunities at both 14 and 16 has markedly increased with new courses introduced at all levels.
- The three specialisms have been maintained and the good practice developed in individual specialism areas has now spread across the other specialisms and throughout the curriculum generally.
- A single IT network now enables students and teachers to access their work from any Federation site.
- The number of students at Bramcote College (the Federation Sixth Form) has almost doubled with a record number of applications for 2010.
- 2009 saw an increase in applications for entry into both Alderman White and Bramcote Park in Year 7.

The successes we have enjoyed so far have been due to the commitment and enthusiasm of all staff and students. However, underpinning these improvements have been changes to the staffing structures of the Federation. Since 2007, the reorganisation of staff teams and management has meant that we can focus resources into the classroom and other student based initiatives such as the House system, additional tuition, smaller teaching groups and increased opportunities for all ages and ability. This reorganisation of staff teams and management has meant that:

- The number of leadership team posts has reduced from 18 before the Federation to 11 in September 2009.
- Teaching staff have been reorganised into Federation faculties, whereby colleagues within the same subjects can pool resources and expertise.
- Cross-Federation posts have been created to ensure that best practice is spread across the Federation.
- Many support staff now work across all three sites within the Federation providing a level of expertise which has been focussed on providing the highest level of support and expertise for the delivery of education to our students.

As you are aware, we did suffer a major set-back in 2008 which has led to the demolition of nearly half of the accommodation at Bramcote Hills. This will have an impact upon future student numbers and, consequently, the level of staffing required by the Federation. It is unfortunate that we are currently making staffing reductions which will come into full effect by September 2010. This is not a decision that the Governors, colleagues or myself have taken lightly. However, we can only guarantee the improvements we have made so far, as well as continue to develop the quality of education our students require, if we are on a secure financial footing.

I would like to reassure parents that our priorities will continue to remain on providing a high standard of education with a range of learning opportunities to raise pupil achievement through both the curriculum and enrichment activities.

Yours sincerely

Mr K Dean
Executive Headteacher