



18 November 2022

Dear Parent/Carer

Sixth form interviews, Toilet works, Site walk, Green Team Eco-Schools focus and Green Christmas tips, Prom wardrobe, A Date with Dan: Free Teams Online Safety Q&A for Parents/Carers – 7 December 2022, Careers and Work-Related Learning Bulletin, Hospitality and Catering

Welcome to my end of week update letter. This week, we have held assemblies to celebrate our Stars of the Term in each subject specialism by year group. These celebration assemblies are an addition to our usual model in order to really show our pride in our students through the year as well as at the end of it. Quite honestly, I don't think I have ever seen so many certificates being given out! Any youngsters who have received any awards this week deserve real credit for their determination, curiosity and belief in themselves. After so much pandemic disruption, it truly feels like we are getting back to where we need to be.

This week has also seen us send a small group of students to an Oxbridge event at the University of Lincoln. I do this with immense pride because of the chance to widen participation that this brings.

There are several things to make you aware of across the whole academy. Please see below:

Sixth form interviews

Firstly, thank you to all parents who have ably supported their children with their sixth form applications. The standard is generally very high and I am pleased to see that we are now rivalling and strongly competing with other historically favoured local schools for entrants. We are an Oxbridge admissions centre too which hasn't always been the case, so I am delighted to see so many youngsters wishing to stay on with us or join us externally.

Interviews begin on Monday, in earnest, for a period of two weeks. I explained this to the whole year group in assembly this morning. All appointment times have been shared by R2L tutors with their groups and are publicly available in the Academy on the sixth form noticeboard for all students to check. I wish them all good luck!

Toilet works

This work is progressing well but, after a site walk yesterday, I have extended the scope of works a bit to ensure that we add some new features to the toilet suite. As a result, instead of

the toilets reopening on Monday, it will be a further week before they reopen. The temporary toilet arrangement will continue for this period.

Site walk

Related to the above toilet update, I conducted a full site walk yesterday in order to ascertain if our fire alarm upgrades and maintenance have been completed to my satisfaction as well as to consider our priorities moving forwards.

Broadly, the fire alarm project has gone well and has now been commissioned successfully. Our last fire drill was compliant but I will look to do another before the Christmas break. I am continuing with a project to suite all of the Academy's door locks across the site and to change some more doors. This is a huge and costly undertaking given this is a 1953 build!

In addition, I have now ordered two large canopies to go outside in the Key Stage 4 eating area and over the new Pit Stop caterpod and a further canopy to go where the Nom Nom caterpod is situated in order to ensure that children can queue and eat in the dry.

Finally, I am also going to put in a huge bid to the DfE for the remainder of our internal fire doors and for all of our external fire doors to be updated. Given the challenging financial climate, it is important to take every chance available to encourage new funding streams into the Academy which are then put straight into supporting our youngsters directly. I will keep you posted about developments.

Green Team Eco-Schools focus and Green Christmas tips

The Green Team have been incredibly proactive in choosing their focus areas for this academic year which will be biodiversity, energy and global citizenship. If you wish to find out a little more about our work in this area, please go to www.eco-schools.org.uk/ten-topics/.

In my promised weekly update of green Christmas tips, how about eating seasonally? Buying locally grown, seasonal produce reduces the energy that would have occurred during shipping or being growing out of season.

Prom wardrobe

This was discussed with Year 11 during their celebration assembly this morning. It is never too early to plan for the summer extravaganza when all examinations are over and time at the Academy can be celebrated in full. We run a prom wardrobe for those families who cannot



Headmaster: Mr D. J. Hardy BA (Hons) PGCE
Moor Lane, North Hykeham, Lincoln. LN6 9AF
01522 882020
enquiries@srpa.co.uk www.srpa.co.uk
Company Registration No: 07690250

afford to spend silly money on expensive outfits for one night of fun. Further details are available from Miss Taylor/Miss Empson at the Academy.

A Date with Dan: Free Teams Online Safety Q&A for Parents/Carers – 7 December 2022, 6-7pm

Over two thirds of students surveyed in the LSCP 2021 Keeping Safe Online Survey indicated that their parents didn't know everything about their online activities. The survey also showed when parents talked openly to their children about their activity online, those students were less likely to experience cyberbullying and more likely to access support.

We want to give you the information and tools to help you feel confident enough to protect your children and young people from online harm. Dan Hawbrook our resident Online Guru will chat you through different apps, online trends, parental controls and any other burning questions you may have! Sign up is required. [A Date with Dan Tickets, Wed 7 Dec 2022 at 18:00 | Eventbrite](#)

Careers and Work-Related Learning Bulletin

Please find this attached with my letter.

Hospitality and Catering

Hospitality and Catering will be starting an exciting new venture. Mrs Hodson and students will be inviting parents to come and take part in some workshops in the New Year to learn some of the skills the students have been learning through some cooking workshops. This will lead to us being able to offer some cooking workshops in conjunction with the foodbank, SRPA's chosen charity this year. We will publish more details in due course and hope that you will look forward to taking part in this venture.

I ought not to end my letter without some reference to the Autumn statement. Collectively with others, I have continued to campaign for extra school funding for several years as we are not yet back at the funding settlement we saw in 2010. Thankfully, we are due to see a further £2.3 billion injection into school budgets each year for the next two years. This is sensible and prudent given the current national mess but, as usual and as I continued to say throughout the pandemic when announcements were made, the devil will be in the detail. There are currently 32,163 schools in the UK of which 20,806 are primary schools, 23 are middle schools and



Headmaster: Mr D. J. Hardy BA (Hons) PGCE
Moor Lane, North Hykeham, Lincoln. LN6 9AF
01522 882020
enquiries@srpa.co.uk www.srpa.co.uk
Company Registration No: 07690250

4,190 are secondary schools. I will be interested to see what our funding share is come next spring...

Clearly, we face a challenging time nationally given the current financial climate. However, SRPA will endure. Jodi Picoult once wrote in her novel 'My Sister's Keeper' that "The human capacity for burden is like bamboo – far more flexible than you'd ever believe at first glance."

I believe she is right. Keep smiling.

I will write again soon.

Yours faithfully



Mr D Hardy
Headmaster



Headmaster: Mr D. J. Hardy BA (Hons) PGCE
Moor Lane, North Hykeham, Lincoln. LN6 9AF
01522 882020
enquiries@srpa.co.uk www.srpa.co.uk
Company Registration No: 07690250

"This is a calm, happy and caring school."