

08.06.2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

Firstly, we wish to emphasise how proud and privileged we have been to lead this school through a significant period of transition and uncertainty; your support, constructive feedback and kind words have been invaluable to us all through these turbulent times. From the moment we started to support the school last year, we have been made to feel incredibly welcome. We should all feel very proud of our collective achievements in enabling the school to be the best it can be for the children and families we support. The staff at Kingsbury Academy have consistently demonstrated their complete commitment, enthusiasm and professionalism and are a credit to the school and wider community.

2020/2021 - Academic Year Update

As you know, on the 1st April 2020, Kingsbury Academy formally became part of Thrive Multi Academy Trust (MAT). As a MAT grows, it is necessary to form a Central Team. This team leads on the strategic direction of the MAT and oversees central functionality for each of the schools, including HR and finance. Two weeks ago, the proposed structure of the Central Team was formally approved by the Board of Thrive and will lead to some changes for both Calthorpe and Kingsbury Academies.

From September, Zoe Allcott will be taking up the role of Trust Business Manager within the Central Team; she will no longer be based at Kingsbury Academy. Zoe will be a strategic project lead and will play an integral role in improving the efficiency and functionality of the Trust. We all wish Zoe well in her new role.

I will be taking up the role of Deputy Chief Executive Officer (DCEO), supporting Richard Chapman, Trust Chief Executive Officer (CEO), in the strategic growth and effectiveness of the Trust. Since we began providing school support to Kingsbury Academy, our role has been to rapidly improve the educational provision, strengthen the financial position and create a clear strategic plan for sustainability and excellence; these targets have now been met. Richard will continue in his role as Executive Head Teacher of Kingsbury Academy and will continue to support Susannah Roberts (Zanna) in her new role as Interim Head Teacher from September; she will be writing to you all shortly. Zanna has been an integral part of moving the school forward and we are in no doubt she will provide the consistency, leadership and innovation required to further enhance the educational provision for our children.

A substantive Head Teacher will be in post from January 2021. The principles and ethos of the substantive Head Teacher will closely align with the recent changes in approach to both behaviour management and curriculum: the children and staff group deserve consistency and sustainability and this is crucial in enabling Kingsbury to continue on its journey to Outstanding. We are pleased that Suzanne Everitt will continue in her role as Assistant Head Teacher and a second Assistant Head Teacher will be appointed for September.

We are delighted to confirm that the current Local Governing Body (LGB) will remain in place; thus, providing further consistency moving forwards. We are actively seeking new additions to the group and in line with your feedback, we wish to strengthen parent voice. If you are interested in joining the LGB, please email expressions of interest to enquiry@kingsbury.thrive.ac by Thursday 25th June.

In terms of educational provision, it is impossible to confirm how September will look. Currently, due to social distancing regulations, School Transport are only able to transport 12 children to/from Kingsbury. Whilst we are steadily increasing our numbers in line with current guidance, the current Health & Safety constraints mean we are very limited with how many children we can offer a place to. If your child is able to be accommodated at Kingsbury and you typically use school transport, the Local Authority are able to provide some financial help if you are able to use your own transport. We will discuss with you directly when this scenario applies.

Year 6 Transitions

We have a significant number of leavers at the end of this academic year. We all wish them well in their new schools and fully appreciate how anxious a time this can be. We continue to liaise closely with our secondary colleagues to ensure effective sharing of information and hopefully, a smooth transition. You should all have received a letter from the Local Authority regarding placements for next year; if you have any queries or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact us and we will do our best to assist you. From speaking to fellow Head Teachers across Coventry, we know that transition is likely to look very different for each school due to the current pandemic. We would encourage you to contact your designated secondary provision with any specific queries.

We are planning how best we can celebrate our leavers time at Kingsbury and further information will follow shortly.

Progress Reports

Parental consultations were planned for Spring 2 but due to Covid-19, we were unable to hold these events. As we approach the end of this academic year, it is imperative that we share with you the amazing successes and achievements of your children this academic year. We will be sending you a learning journey which will contain summaries of progress, teacher statements and photographs of some of the wonderful learning experiences that have taken place this year.

Important Dates

Academic Year - 2019/20

Last school day - Friday 17th July

Academic Year – 2020/21

First school day for children – Thursday 3rd September

Training days for staff only - Tuesday & Wednesday 1st/2nd September 2020 & Monday 2nd November (further dates to be confirmed)

It has been an absolute privilege to work with you all. We would like to thank the PTA for their incredible hard work and endeavour, the support of current and previous governors and most importantly of all to you and your children.

If you have any questions or queries, please call or email and we can arrange an appropriate forum for discussion.

As always, best wishes,

Richard & Craig

