

CHIEF EXECUTIVE'S STAFF BRIEFING NOTE



NUMBER: 041
DATE: 01/09/20

Welcome to the new academic year 2020/21

WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

I hope you are pleased to be back and reassured that the Trust has taken every step possible to ensure that your academy is safe. I understand that there will be a degree of anxiety about the return to our new 'normal' but I believe that everyone will feel much better once we are back into the routine of the working week. Above all, I am sure that you, like me, will be delighted to be reunited with colleagues and to welcome our learners back from Wednesday 2nd September 2020.

We are very keen to resume familiar routines for learners once they have been through a thorough induction process on their designated return day. Our Values Driven Expectations (VDE) behaviour model is more important than ever and we are calling on learners to show a real sense of collective responsibility. More than ever, it is important to 'Respect each other and our world'. Please ensure that you fully implement VDE whilst being mindful of our Attachment awareness training and finding genuine reasons to award merit stamps in planners.

We were all so disappointed that learners in Year 11 could not sit their final examinations for which they worked so hard. As you are aware, we used a rigorous Trust wide process to award our Centre Assessed Grades and to ensure accuracy. We were delighted by the significant uplift in grades by the examination boards in all academies, which further enhanced the improvements in both progress and attainment. I would like to thank everyone for your hard work and commitment in supporting our Year 11 learners and it was wonderful to see the celebrations that deservedly took place on results day. We now have an excellent foundation on which to build and I am certain that we will continue to improve outcomes in 2021 – COVID permitting, of course.

I am pleased to hear that your first INSET day went well and I wanted to give everyone an opportunity to have a calm day in order to settle back in to your academy. We are so fortunate to have a well established teaching and learning model, a highly effective behaviour model and common Trust wide curriculum maps. This means that we do not need to introduce anything new at the start of our academic year; we simply require you to follow our proven Trust processes.

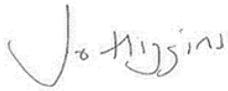
Our Continuous Professional Development (CPD) sessions will continue to take place on Mondays and will follow a three strand cycle: the first will focus on curriculum development led by Directors and Associate Senior Leaders for non-core subjects, the second will be led by the central team and the third will focus on developing the work of our Curriculum

Team Leaders (CTL) as well as providing time for our Teacher Educators (TEDs) to lead the Ambition programme.

The central team will continue to support you as we enter our third fully operational year. We should really gather momentum and we are determined that all of our secondary academies will be securely 'good' and that Blowers Green will continue to be outstanding. In terms of deployment of the central team, the only major change will be that individual colleagues will only visit one academy each day to reduce the risk levels of travelling between academies.

WHAT YOU NEED TO DO

I really hope that you enjoy your first week back and I look forward to seeing you all soon when I visit your academy.



Jo Higgins
Chief Executive