

## St Martins School - Head Teacher's Report to Governors and Parents



### SPRING TERM 2016 UPDATE

#### Introduction

The hard work of the first term has continued and the pace of change hasn't slowed. We have recently undertaken an audit of SMCS, social, moral, cultural and spiritual. The Audit, approximately 80 pages long, shows that not only are we improving academic standards rapidly but we are addressing all of the issues pertinent to our students and in the world today.

We have completed an action plan which will include links with other schools and a new friendship project aiming at improving social skills and co-operation across the school.

We have also completed an action plan to improve literacy levels throughout the school. As part of the plan we will be introducing the accelerated reader scheme and are hoping to buy lots of new books for the hub area. Staff have been trained in guided reading and certificates have been given out in primary assemblies for spellings and handwriting. We will be having a drop everything and read half an hour every week so don't forget your book if you are visiting the school, timetable to follow.

The second year of the community curriculum programme has continued with a project at Whittington castle. Students from Selattyn, Gobowen, Weston Rhyn and St Martins have studied forensic science and tried to discover the answer to a historical murder.

Kevin Darke has joined us in the Maths department and we congratulate Katherine Jones, hub manager on her motherhood to be and Julie Faulkes on the birth of her little boy.

Thank you for your patience with the building works in the sports centre. The ceilings in the changing rooms have now been repaired and we are currently working hard to get the swimming pool back up and running. This was emergency repair work and we are sorry that we were unable to give any warning.

We have continued our links with Moreton Hall. A group of year 10 and year 9 went to see the Moreton production of Annie, which was superb, especially the singing. 6 of our year 11 students have been offered scholarships for September.....photos in the press will follow.

We will complete this term with 2 dressing up days. One to celebrate world book day and we finish the term on Thursday the 24<sup>th</sup> of March with an Easter themed day and an egg hunt in the primary department.

## **SCHOOL DEVELOPMENT PLAN**

This Spring report will contain an update on anything new from the Autumn report.

### **Spring update**

#### **SECTION A – teaching and learning**

- We are currently host school to 7 trainee teachers. 4 secondary and 3 primary. This provides departments with a new dimension and an extra pair of hands. Previous students have loved their time here and have been very complimentary about the support and guidance they have had from staff
- This last week I have held several pupil voice meetings. Pupils were very complementary about all areas of school life. They said their lessons were challenging and interesting and one year 9 group thought the work was too hard in some subjects.
- Currently we are running very small groups in year 10. The year 10 students interviewed thought these group sizes were very successful and maximised their learning
- The new action plan for literacy will put literacy skills at the forefront of every subject departments planning and will result in students being able to access the curriculum better

#### **SECTION B – MAXIMISING OUTCOMES**

- I have held 2 meetings for parents to go through the changes to the grading of GCSE'S and the removal of levels. These have been very successful and I will continue to work with parents in getting our reporting system the best that it can be
- Pupil voice activities have highlighted the success of the small groups particularly in year 10 and current data shows that these groups are having a positive impact on student progress
- Carol Jones has held 2 parent meetings to look at the new I Track monitoring system and explain how primary reports will look going forward
- Revision sessions for year 11 are going well with 20 – 30 students regularly staying every night after school
- Year 6 have been working hard for their 'SAT' tests with booster classes after school and plenty of practice goes.

#### **SECTION C – Behaviour and ethos**

- The student leadership group has created some suggestion boxes for students to use in both primary and secondary departments
- The house system is continuing to motivate students and we will be trialling a new raffle ticket system in secondary after Easter
- The new SMCS action plan will result in new ideas for developing links with other schools abroad and a new friendship initiative
- In pupil voice activities this week pupils said that behaviour around school was good and still improving. Year 10 said that behaviour in lessons was excellent and much better than last year

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- All year groups felt safe in school and liked the way that students at St Martins mix across year groups
- All students felt safe when using the internet and knew how to continue to keep themselves safe
- All teaching staff and 2 governors have undertaken prevent training
- PDSA visited and worked with each primary class as part of SMCS programme
- Year 6 choir formed and came third in the Oswestry Youth music festival. Solo students also performed
- Pupils involved in the big local competition – 2 prizes awarded

### **SECTION D – leadership and management**

- The first round of performance observations showed that almost all lessons were good or outstanding
- The second round of meetings and observations is currently happening and I predict a rise in standards from last term
- A subject review was held in PE and Jamie Powell has taken over as head of department
- Subject reviews in Maths , English and performing arts will be completed before the end of the summer term
- The proposed support staff structure has been launched and it is proposed that this will be in place by September 2016
- A proposed new teaching staff / management structure will be launched shortly
- ECM have continued their programme of training for middle leaders with sessions on developing SEF's and the use of interventions with pupil premium students

### **SECTION E – Student numbers and marketing**

- Numbers for reception are 23 with 1 or 2 students still to add
- Nursery numbers up to 32 and rising to 36 after the Easter holidays
- Numbers for year 7 still rising and students choosing us from many feeder schools including Gobowen, Selattyn, Weston Rhyn, Chirk, Meadows, Woodside, Ellesmere, Pentre and from out of the county
- The PTA continues to make money. A fantastic Christmas fair and several events for the big lottery have boosted the funds
- We are currently reviewing some of our transition events and will be hosting an event for Criftins and Pentre in the summer term
- The jolly jamboree will happen again at the end of June. This year it will have a multicultural theme.
- The Catriona's Fund charity will support the event by funding a literary day and an artist in residence

**Pupil premium update**

In the financial year 2015- 16 we will receive £ 135,815. The money is spent on a range of interventions:

- Creating smaller groups – 43 students in 3 groups in year 10
- One to One literacy and numeracy support delivered by the additional needs team.
- Small group work, involving pupils working together with support from staff to improve Literacy and numeracy skills.
- Daily Reading sessions supported by our Learning Resource Hub staff and Teaching Assistants.
- Inclusion programs, to support pupils who find main stream school setting difficult.
- Tailored programs including, personal development work, anger management, self awareness and supporting good attendance.
- Family support programs, working with family and young people building relationships in the community and supporting positive parenting.
- Transitional programs for pupils who have moved from other school mid phase or have been identified as needing support when moving up to key stage 3.
- Accessing 'Enhance' workers from other agencies and specialists to advice / work with pupils with SEN.
- Work of learning mentors who tailor interventions, support in class rooms and support Pastoral staff to positive manage pupils leaning.
- Training for staff to access support as part of the early help assessment team.
- Supporting pupils of Traveling families.
- Supporting before and after school clubs and extra curricula activities.
- Enabling students to access work placements.

**PE sport grant update**

This financial year we received £ 8,400 in PE sports grant. This money is targeted at improving skills in primary age children, but also coaching for primary staff. This year we are spending the following approximate amounts

- £ 4,800 on secondary PE staff teaching primary PE and coaching staff and teaching assistants
- £ 1,200 on swimming lessons for all students, lifeguards and use of the pool

£ 2,400 on after school and during school specialist coaching in varying activities depending on the term delivered by specialist coaches.

Targets for this year:

- Ensure increased participation in sport for both boys and girls
- Improve agility and speed
- Every child will be able to swim by the time they leave the primary department

**British values / prevent agenda**

- All classrooms display British values and they are being referred to during lessons
- PSHE schemes of work have been re written to include work on the British values and radicalisation

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- Assemblies have tackled British value and the terrorist attacks in Paris and what we can do to prevent British citizens being radicalised.

### 'Thoroughness' update

- We will be tackling the governments wasted years agenda by implementing secondary lessons in core subjects for year 6 as soon as the assessment tests are completed
- Academic transition will become more of a focus with primary schools asked to provide a more detailed breakdown of students attainment and sharing of best pieces of work
- Teaching partner work is going well. All staff have a primary or secondary partner to work with on areas for development.

### Exclusion data

	boys	girls	SEND	TOTAL
2014/15 Spring term	28 days	1	12	29
2015/16 Spring term	13	1	5	14

### Attendance update

nursery	reception	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
n/a	n/a	95.7	96.2	93.4	95.6	94.1	93.9	95.1	94.25	96	94.3	94.7

### Students on roll – total -

nursery	reception	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
32	29	22	28	32	32	32	21	60	58	55	44	75
							228					520