

Head Teacher Report to Local Governing Body November 2016

Introduction

We have had an exciting start to our new term as we grow into our new academy status with the Priory Trust. The improved exam results at key stage 4 have enthused and focused us on our journey of improvement. As I have liaised with other head teachers across Shropshire it seems we have indeed risen over many schools with the new progress 8 measure. Check out <https://www.compare-school-performance.service.gov.uk/find-a-school-in-england>.

Encouragingly our EBACC progress score was one of the best in Shropshire and we now need to look at increasing the number of students entered for EBACC.

Key Stage 4 performance in Dance, Drama, History and Additional Science was outstanding and above national performance. We were significantly above in national performance in Dance and History.

We welcome a number of new members of staff to school this term; Emma Jefferys teaching in Reception, Hollie Poulter Admin office, Simon Payne caretaking team and apprentices Alex Hill, Lowri Morris and Beth-Anne Lloyd.

Work with the Priory School has begun at a pace. Mary Massey, Assistant Head leading on tracking and use of data has been working with John Holmes to improve and streamline our data catching. We have already improved our reporting to parents and will be trialling the new paperwork with year 7 at their review day in November.

Ruth Shaw and Bryan Warr, Heads of Department at the Priory have started their work with the English and Maths departments and action plans are being written for the year ahead. PE support has just been initiated and will also run this year.

I have been conducting subject reviews in Maths, English, Science and PE this term. Staff training this year will focus on increasing the number of outstanding lessons, improving our use of data to inform and improve student progress and increasing stretch and challenge for all students.

There is a great atmosphere of purpose and excitement about the school at the moment. Our successes last year have given the staff a new confidence and enthusiasm to increase the pace of our improvement.

Report on the school development plan

Section A – Teaching and learning

- Four subject reviews have been held this term in English , Maths, Science and PE
- Action plans have been written for all subjects with clear actions and milestones across the year
- All staff will have been observed by the first week in December and there have been some paired observations with Michael Barratt and other Priory staff.
- Stretch and challenge and teaching outstanding lessons are the focus for our training and CPD this year and we held a training twilight on planning outstanding lessons on November the 21st
- We have introduced new tracking and recording procedures for holding staff to account for areas of practice that require improvement.
- The literacy plan is being implemented and Tammy Evans has been appointed to lead the school in this work
- We have purchased the accelerated reader programme and are now using this programme with all student's years 3 to 9.
- We test all students with literacy online software every term to track progress
- We reorganised teaching assistants and almost all Teaching assistants are now working across the school. This has led to a greater understanding of student needs across the years.
- New lighting has been put in across the secondary phase and we are now working to redecorate areas and improve displays and learning environments.

- We have been working to improve handwriting across the primary phase and this has been extended to tackle handwriting issues in the secondary phase.
- All of our support staff from caretakers to office staff have a target on their performance management which relates to pupil progress, which has helped focus everyone on our key function
- We are currently hosting four trainee teachers, three secondary and one primary

Section B – Outcomes

- There was a huge improvement this year in both the Progress 8 measure and Attainment 8. We are now close to national averages in both at -0.11 progress 8 and 47.9 attainment 8
- This year we hope to continue by improving our Progress 8 measure towards 0. We have a particularly weak year 11 cohort and it will not be possible next year to achieve a high Attainment 8 score.
- Progress in English across KS3 and 4 has improved. Maths shows more limited progress at KS4 but progress particularly in years 7 and 8 in improving
- EYFS - the percentage achieving the expected standard in Reading and Number has improved since 2015.
- In Year 1 phonics 83% achieved the expected standard. Year 2 phonics 93% achieved the expected standard. Although results at KS1 were very disappointing, there were strengths in Reading with the % of pupils working in greater depth in Reading met national expectation and the % of non-SEN pupils working at the expected standard + in Reading was in-line with the national average for this group.
- Results at KS2 were very disappointing, there were strengths including the proportion of pupils reaching the expected standard in writing meeting the national average. We are above the floor standard in all three areas in terms of progress compared to national averages
- KS2 and KS1 results were disappointing in the summer but huge lessons have been learnt following the introduction of the new tests.
- Both year 2 and year 6 classes are working hard this year and performing well in the on-going testing. We are confident that national measures will be achieved this year.
- Assessment systems in both phases have been streamlined and consolidated.
- Rachel Pritchard, year 3 teacher, has returned from maternity leave to take a lead in ensuring that the children reach the required KS1 measures before mastering the year 3 curriculum

Section C – Behaviour and ethos

- Attendance is still below our target but we been holding assemblies on attendance and giving out rewards for good attendance, both for individuals and for tutor and class groups
- Our EWO Susie Skipper has been investigating poor attendance. The cut off for Susie's involvement is now 90% attendance
- Our house and rewards system continues to be embedded with house assemblies and rewards such as cupcakes with the Head, lunch with the Head and rewards trips

Section D – Leadership and management

- Learning walks and lesson observations for all staff have resulted in detailed analysis of the performance of departments and individual members of staff. We have clearly defined areas to improve

- Middle leaders continue to meet on a fortnightly basis, the focus for their improvement this year will be the use of data and tracking to effect student progress
- The governors are adjusting to their new roles in the local governing body. They continue to be a highly effective team, scrutinising the school leadership, our MAT leaders and driving the school forward on its journey to be an outstanding school.

Section E – Increase student numbers

- Our cross phase projects continue to be very successful in developing our relationships with our primary feeder schools. More detail later in this report
- We have recently made strong links with Ysgol y Waun Primary School, Pentre School and Criftins School and early indications show that we will be getting more students from these schools this year.
- The PTA continues and will be holding a Christmas Fayre on the 9th of December.
- The swimming pool has returned to community use and the Sports centre management team are starting to plan further community opportunities for this year.

Induction and transition

Our open evening was the busiest we have seen for some years and we had many parents from Welsh and Oswestry schools. Early indications are that next year's year 7 will be the largest group for several years.

We have conducted some research on reasons for choosing St Martins School and the results are below:

"Smaller, friendlier. Chose after coming to taster day. Feel like a family. Knew the school had some problems in the past but pleased with reports that huge improvements had been made and think school has made an amazing effort (more than the other schools her other 3 children attended). School is small and knew my child would get extra help if needed. Parent attended the school. Warmer feel than other schools in the area. Got a family feel. Smaller, nice community. Other family attended the school and thrived"

It is clear we are now becoming the school of choice for parents seeking a supportive, family ethos and we are now attracting the brighter, quieter pupils which is very encouraging.

Our substantial transition programme will begin in March with a welcome evening, this year we may offer a catch up programme to Welsh students joining us in September so that they will be able to access Modern Languages effectively when they join us.

Community Curriculum

This year we have returned to our original projects from two years ago. The first project is "Our universe, our planet and me." The second project, in the Spring term, will be a week of Arts and Sports that schools can book into and the Summer project will be a return to the 'dragons den' enterprise project. Two years ago this project was won by Selattyn School, winning £100 to spend for their School and the Community Curriculum Cup.

This term's project commenced with a day exploring the stars and the universe with a session in a planetarium, exploding things and finding out how the universe began with Mr Taylor, then creating a piece of creative writing about the planets. St Martins staff have taught sessions for year 5 and 6 in the primary schools every 2 weeks. This year the creative writing will be made into a book along with student's illustrations and pictures of the project.

Year 11 moving on

We were delighted with the results of this year's year 11. They worked incredibly hard and many of them achieved all of the grades they needed for the next phase. They have moved on to many destinations including, Moreton Hall, Adams Wem, Shrewsbury Sixth form, Colleg Cambria and North Shropshire College. Zander Tatters managed to gain a place at Wellbeck College, the army officers training college.

We were so pleased to see almost all of them at the presentation evening on Thursday the 12th of November. We gave out subject awards and major trophies. These included the Lord Robens and Janet Warwick trophies for the best external results, which went to Carriad Maddox and Ollie McNally and the Everest trophy for contribution to school life, which went to Meg Hauton. They all looked so grown up and happy. We miss you all and wish you all the best for the future.

Moreton Hall

We continue to work with Moreton Hall School and we are really grateful for the fantastic opportunities they continue to offer. Five of our girls transferred to Moreton last year and they are thriving and taking a full part in the whole Moreton experience. Ten of the brightest year 11 Mathematicians have a Maths lesson with Sean Lang every Tuesday from 4pm to 5pm. Every Wednesday afternoon our top set triple scientists from year 10 go for their lunch in the Moreton restaurant and have a 1 hour lecture in the fabulous new Science facility. We've also taken part in Music, History and Food technology days. Several of our year 11 girls are taking the entrance test and are hoping to gain scholarships for next September.

"Throughness update"

During the summer term after SAT tests, our year 6 pupils transferred into the secondary phase and had lessons in English, Maths and Science. We continue to learn from each other with joint observations, training and meetings where we look at outstanding practice from Nursery to year 11.

Exclusion data

	<u>Boys(days)</u>	<u>Girls (days)</u>	<u>SEND(days)</u>	<u>Total (days)</u>
2014 / 2015 Summer term	<u>19</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>19</u>
2015 / 2016 Summer term	<u>11</u>	<u>19</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>32</u>

Attendance update

<u>Nursery</u>	<u>Rec</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>9</u>	<u>10</u>	<u>11</u>	<u>Inc</u>
<u>92.15</u>	<u>92.62</u>	<u>94.47</u>	<u>96.31</u>	<u>93.68</u>	<u>92.38</u>	<u>95</u>	<u>93.26</u>	<u>92.72</u>	<u>93.45</u>	<u>93.43</u>	<u>93.77</u>	<u>94.23</u>	<u>72.91</u>

Students on roll at November 2016

<u>Nursery</u>	<u>Reception</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>9</u>	<u>10</u>	<u>11</u>
23	26	30	28	29	32	31	34	53	59	60	54	42

