February 2018

Dear Parents/Carers

As we come to the end of another successful half-term I thought it would be an appropriate time to highlight some of the amazing achievements of The Bourne Academy community and also some areas of development for the Academy.

We are particularly proud to be one of only three schools nationally to have been credited with achieving all of the eight Gatsby benchmarks that define UK excellence in careers guidance. The benchmarks we were assessed against were:

1. A stable careers programme
2. Learning from career and labour market information
3. Addressing the needs of each pupil
4. Linking curriculum learning to careers
5. Encounters with employers and employees
6. Experiences of workplaces
7. Encounters with further and higher education
8. Personal guidance

This is a huge achievement and I would like to congratulate Mrs Woodings and her team on this National recognition.

I am also delighted to announce that The Bourne Academy and Canford School have been shortlisted for the TES Independent-state school partnership award. I will let you know how we do as the announcement is this week at a ceremony in London!

On another note, I would like to thank all students, staff and parents/carers for your support with the implementation of our adapted behaviour system. Effectively, on a lesson by lesson basis, students have one simple choice, to either be in class working hard and progressing with their learning or risk being isolated from their peers for a period of one working day (5 lessons), so that the learning of others is not disrupted. I know the system has been welcomed by staff and students alike. However, it is also important that students take responsibility when they make a mistake. If they receive a “green slip” they will automatically receive a Directors of Learning detention (DoL) for one hour the next day. If they fail to attend this detention they will be placed in isolation for the period of one working day (5 lessons). Whilst we will continue to email/try to contact parents/carers in a timely manner, we do expect students to attend their detention regardless of contact being made or not.

To carry on the theme of behaviour, I have to say we were so incredibly proud of our Year 11 boys football team who travelled to Twynham School for the County Cup semi-final. This is the furthest the school has ever gone in the cup and it is a wonderful achievement. Their behaviour, under difficult conditions and amongst a partisan crowd, was impeccable (as were our supporters) and whilst we lost a close fought game we definitely showed what it means to have high standards of sportsmanship. I hope the lunch we provided for them was a small consolidation and demonstrated just how much we thought of them. Well done boys!

As I am sure you are aware, parking and driving to and from The Academy is becoming quite difficult. Therefore, it is pleasing to see so many students actively cycling to school. We would definitely encourage more to do this, however, I would request that parents insist that student cyclists must leave Hadow Road immediately at the end of the school day. Too many students hang around after the end of the day and cause an unnecessary obstruction to cars and pedestrians. In the interest of safety, we will move students on and take action if they refuse to comply.

Finally, I would like to thank parents and carers for their support in ensuring that their child’s uniform is appropriate. Visitors have commented on how smart our uniform is and that it makes a really good first impression. As a pre-warning, we will be holding uniform checks at the beginning of next term. As usual, we will look for tight trousers, appropriate skirts and jewellery; we will be paying a particular focus to make-up and nails. Please ensure make-up, hair and nails are of a natural colour. The half term will give any students wearing inappropriate acrylic nails the opportunity to remove them. As always, we expect parents/carers to support us on all issues regarding uniform and behaviour.

Once again, thank you all for your support this term - have a lovely half-term break. We look forward to welcoming the students back on Monday 19 February.

Yours sincerely,

Mr M Avoth

Principal