



Dear Parents and Carers,

Headteacher's Newsletter April 2016

2015-16 is a significant school year as we move forward from our successful Ofsted inspection in June 2015 and start to plan for the future development of our school. I am writing with information about three important issues connected with this, including a proposed significant change to our school uniform.

Challenge Partner Visit feedback

I am delighted that our recent Challenge Partners review confirmed our 'Good' grading. Challenge Partners is a national network of schools, including many to the highest performing schools, who agree to support and challenge each other. Shortly before half-term a trained Ofsted inspector and a team of senior leaders from other Challenge Partner schools spending two days in our school, observing lessons, scrutinising performance data and meeting staff and students. This review gives us valuable feedback for improvement and ensures that we are maintaining and improving our standards without waiting three or more years for an Ofsted inspection. We asked the review team to concentrate on years 7 to 9 as these had had less scrutiny from Ofsted, but lessons from all year groups and subjects were seen.

Overall, the review team agreed with our judgement that we would continue to be judged as 'Good' by Ofsted, and the team felt that performance had improved further since our last Ofsted inspection. Our History department was designated a key area of excellence. This means that the reviewers felt it worthy of being promoted across the network for other schools to visit to see excellent practice in action.

More detailed feedback can be found on the home page of our website.

School Values

Since achieving our 'Good' rating, I have been leading a process with staff, students, parents and governors about what kind of school we want Wood Green to be. This started with ensuring that we explicitly have a core purpose and a set of core values. Following various consultations, including with the parents who attended the Parents' Values and Vision evening in November, key values emerged and I am pleased that Governors endorsed these as our official values at the Full Governors' Meeting in March.

Our Core Purpose:

'Excellence For All'

Our 'Learn Well' Values:

LEARNING
EFFORT
ASPIRATION
RESPECT
NURTURE
WELLBEING

The next steps will be to identify what these mean for every group in our community: students, staff, parents and governors. The values will underpin everything we do in school, including a new behaviour code, home-school agreement and school development plan for 2016-17.

School Uniform

It is important that our school uniform reflects our 'Excellence for all' core purpose and I do not feel that this is currently the case. I know that the school uniform is of concern amongst parents too and feedback at the November consultation evening showed that there was overwhelming support from parents to introduce a smarter uniform. Therefore I feel that this is the right time to propose a new uniform for Wood Green School and to consult with parents, as well as students and staff, about making these changes. The new uniform would be for all new Year 7 students, with all students required to be in the new uniform by September 2017. Response from the Student Council has been very positive.

On our home page on the website you will find a link to information about the proposed new uniform, how and when it will be implemented and an opportunity to give your feedback. The proposals have been approved by Governors for consultation. I do hope that you will participate. The feedback survey closes on Thursday April 28th. The final decision about the new uniform will be communicated by the half-term break in June.

Staff changes

We welcome to school this week Mrs Ponsford, who joins the English department from Bartholomew School, Eynsham, and who will take on classes in years 7 to 10. There are also some changes to teaching in the Maths department, following the departure of Mr Filmer-Smith. Further details will be given to parents of classes most affected by these changes. Recruiting new teachers is becoming increasingly difficult and we have moved swiftly to replace teachers, particularly in shortage areas such as maths. We have made some excellent appointments for September and I will be pleased to share these with parents later this term. In the meantime, if you have any questions about staffing, please do contact the relevant Head of Department, or Mrs Stevens, Deputy Headteacher.

We also welcome the following support staff:

- Miss Pirrie joins us as a teaching assistant
- Dr Kendrick rejoins the school, in the IT Technician team
- Mrs Bosson is our Sixth Form administrator
- Mr Bownds has joined the Pastoral Support Worker team
- Mrs Sharp will be the school receptionist from April 20th.

Mrs Hardman moves from reception to be the new 11-16 Administrator and Mrs King has taken on the administration of our Careers provision, including work experience.

Parent Survey

Your feedback on the school is always welcomed. Please use the link on the home page of our website to complete our annual parent survey, by Friday May 20th.

Yours sincerely



Mr R Shadbolt
Headteacher