Dear Parents / Carers,

**February Newsletter**

As we approach the end of the first half of the Autumn Term, I wanted to share with parents / carers some news, recent updates and reminders. The start of the calendar year has been exciting with the academy placing emphasis on continued aspects of improvement including:

**Recruitment**

As an academy we acknowledge that staff absence has been challenging for students this term. You may be aware of the ongoing recruitment challenge in teaching in general; this is exasperated in a coastal setting and has made recruiting to some teaching vacancies very difficult. Working in conjunction with our recruitment partner Hays we have however been able to recruit to some key vacancies with teachers either taking up appointment after February Half Term or Easter. These include:

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Teacher** | **Subject** | **Starting** |
| Mr Reginald Williams | Science | After Half Term |
| Mr Ebeneezer Amoah | English |
| Mrs Roscheika Green | MFL - French |
| Mr Desmond Green | MFL – French |
| Ms Ofilia Xiang | MFL - Mandarin |
| Mrs Terri Kemp | Health & Social Care / CPLD | After Easter |
| Miss Rebecca Briggs | PE |
| Mr Alex Costello | Photography / Art |

Mrs Ribery is leaving the academy at half term. I would like to thank her for her long service to the academy and wish her the very best of luck for the future.

I am very pleased to announce that Miss Harris has been appointed as Head of Year and will be assuming responsibility for Year 8 at Easter when Mr Cameron moves onto a new role closer to his home in Norwich.

**Updates to Behaviour Management Procedures**

The Behaviour Management Procedures that are used to consistently apply our behaviour processes have been updated. A copy of the procedures will be accessible on the academy website from **Monday 26th February**. Changes to the procedures include:

* Update to the guiding principles to include the academy’s approach to Trauma Informed Practice.
* Introduction of ‘Platinum Ticket’ Class Charts reward voucher.
* Adjustment of the behaviour pathway removing ‘Amber Remove’.
* Addition of ‘Off-Site Direction’ to another education provider to the procedure.
* Update to include the use of lunchtime detentions and changes to escalation processes if multiple detentions are missed.
* Addition of a verbal warning prior to confiscation of mobile phones.
* Updated processes to manage abusive behaviour from Parents / Carers.

**Use of Off-Site Direction.**

The academy has recently introduced the use of ‘Off Site Direction’ as a consequence short of suspension for some persistently poor behaviours. This provision allows the academy to direct students to another educational provision for up to three consecutive days to support improvements in their behaviour. The use of Off-Site Direction is set out in Section 29A Education Act 2002 and further defined in the Education (Educational Provision for Improving Behaviour) Regulations 2010 & The Education (Educational Provision for Improving Behaviour) (Amendment) Regulations 2012.

Cliff Park Ormiston Academy has partnership agreements in place with three local secondary academies including Ormiston Denes Academy (Lowestoft), Lynn Grove Academy (Gorleston) and Charter Academy (Great Yarmouth).

**Parents / Carers will be informed before any off-site direction is issued.**

**Uniform Update**

Please could you ensure your child is wearing the correct uniform on the return from the half term break. School uniform requirements are as follows:

* Academy Blazer with academy badge on breast pocket. Sleeves must not be rolled up
* Plain black school trousers / pleated black skirt – no shorter than top of knee – Not rolled over at waist.
* White shirt – Uniform style with stiff collar, buttoned to the top. Shirts must be tucked in all the times
* School shoes black
* Socks – plain black or white worn under trousers
* Tights – plain black or white
* Academy clip on tie

**Reminder – Leggings are not part of the school uniform and must not be worn.**

**Year 11 Mock Exams – Changes to Lunch break**

When we return from February half term, Year 11 will be taking their next set of mock exams. In order to fully reflect what will happen in the summer exams we will be using the exam board start times of 9.00am and 1.30pm.

This means that for the two weeks after half term (Mon 26th Feb – Fri 8th March) we will be moving our lunch break forward an hour to 12.20pm. Students will have their usual period 3, then lunch followed by period 4 and 5.

**Attendance and Punctuality**

**High levels of student attendance is vital for a successful school career.** There is a clear link between academic performance and rates of attendance. Our school day begins at 8.50am and students are late to school if they arrive after this time. **Students will receive an immediate sanction if they are late to school.**

Our canteen is open from 8.00am for students to access a **free** breakfast and we would recommend that parents leave plenty of time if you are dropping students off with a car as the traffic outside of school can be heavy in the mornings. If there is an unavoidable reason for your child arriving late to school, please provide them with a note.

If you have any concerns linked to your child’s attendance there are a number of support strategies we can access to support you and your child. **Please speak with us**. Our Attendance team are more than happy to help and support with individual cases with a wide range of support on offer.

Our academy Attendance Policy it is available to download from the Cliff Park Ormiston Academy website.

**Leave during term time**

There is no entitlement in law for any leave of absence from the academy in term time. Taking leave in term time will affect a child’s education as much as any other absence and we expect parents to help them by not taking children away in term time. **All applications for a leave of absence must be made in advance to the Principal and will only be considered if there are exceptional circumstances.**

**Parent Forum Feedback**

Thank you to the parents who attended the Parent Forum which took place on Thursday 15th February 2024. The following items were discussed:

* How the academy is reducing the use of supply staff and an update on recruitment to key posts and current vacancies
* Processes used to gather information from staff about their wellbeing and strategies the academy is using to retain staff
* A summary of the November 2023 student voice survey and student focus groups was shared with parents.
* Planned improvements for the remainder of the academic year were presented.
* A summary of ongoing collection of parent survey data was shared with parents with key themes identified.
* A summary of how the academy’s performance is measured over time was given.

Our next Parent Forum will be taking place via Microsoft Teams on **Thursday 16th May 2024 starting at 6.00PM.** Meetings take place online. A link will be sent to all parents closer to the time.

**Parent Drop In reminder**

Parents / Carers are welcome to drop into the academy to meet with myself or a member of my Senior Team every Wednesday. **You do not need to make an appointment, please just come to reception between 8.50 and 9.30AM and we will be happy to meet with you**. I understand the crucial role that parents play in a community school and welcome discussion on any aspect of our school community.

**Important Dates**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Date**   | **Event**   |
| 19th – 23rd February  | Half Term Break   |
| Monday 26th February   | Return after Half Term Break (Week 2)  |
| Thursday 14th March  | Year 7 Parents Evening  |
| Thursday 28th March   | Finish for Easter Holiday   |
| Monday 15th April  | Return after Easter Holiday (Week 1)  |
| Thursday 16th May   | Online Parents Forum  6.00 pm  |

Have a fantastic Half Term break and thank you for all of your support.

Yours sincerely,

Harry French
**Principal.**