



BIRMINGHAM CITY COUNCIL - CHILDREN, YOUNG
PEOPLE AND FAMILIES

Langley School

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18th June 2021

Dear Parents and Carers

Thank you for all your support and co-operation as we have worked together through, what continues to be, very challenging times. As you may be aware, I have been Interim Head teacher (with Executive Powers) at Langley School since the start of Spring 2 (February 22 2021!) I am also the Head teacher at Hamilton School. I have spent the vast majority of my time at Langley and there is a Service Level Agreement in place between the two schools in this regard. My main forms of communication with you have been around the industrial dispute and potential days of industrial action. Given the circumstances, it is hard to write with too much certainty about the future but I feel that there are now some really significant things to share with you, alongside some more practical matters.

Since I joined the school, I have been struck by the warmth and commitment of the staff and governors to the students. The attendance levels of staff have been excellent and this has been a real help in terms of stability as we have been using a relatively high number of agency staff. They have also been very supportive of me and this has helped us. I would also like to thank Richard and the team at Coppice for being so helpful.

Staffing and Recruitment

We recently undertook a huge round of recruitment which resulted in us employing 5 teachers and 11 Teaching Assistants – all on permanent contracts. This means that, as things currently stand, we are fully staffed for September. A few of them have already started and others are starting soon so that they can help for the remainder of this school year and also have a good transition for September.

We currently have an advert out for a Business Manager. Lynette left her role at Langley at Easter. She has been very helpful in supporting the Business Manager from Hamilton School, Tonia Clark, who has been working here for half the week. There are a few more things to do in terms of recruitment before the term ends.

Working with other professionals.

I am delighted that we will have a significant Speech and Language Therapy input next year. This will be at least for one day a week and almost certainly be for two for the foreseeable future. We have had some input this term but it needs to be consistent. Steve Brown offers very good support in terms of the overall climate for learning and working with staff and students in terms of behaviour. We extended his time with us and this will continue next year. Two classes have been working with an Occupational Therapist (OT) from Hamilton School, Alison Double. We are doing our best to secure more regular OT support for September.

End of term arrangements



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It is very hard to do things in the way that we would like in terms of parents meetings and events – especially given the recent government announcement. A letter will be coming out regarding reports.

The students will leave school at 1pm on the last day of term – Wednesday 21st July. The buses and taxis will take them as normal so please make arrangements to receive them earlier. If you would like to collect your child any earlier on that day, please discuss with your class teacher.

Classes for 2021/22

We are in the process of finalising the lists and you will have them in good time before the end of term. It is always complicated but we have adapted how we group the students so that age is less of a consideration than primary need. Grouping staff needs lots of thought too – especially as we have so many new starters.

Communicating with staff

It is great that there is such a strong partnership between school and home. We have communication and e-mail protocols in school so that messages aren't sent at anti-social times. Staff use the 'send later' function so that alerts don't pop up on their devices. Could I please ask you to consider the timing of sending messages in the interests of staff wellbeing.

Year 6 leavers

It has been a really difficult year for Secondary Transfer for lots of students across Birmingham. The advice from Public Health means that transition visits are very unlikely. Schools will be in contact. We are working hard to help place our students who still have no place.

Key dates for 2021/22

We are currently in the draft consultation stage for the school calendar. However, I can share some dates with you. They are influenced by the availability of external trainers in key areas that need urgent attention:

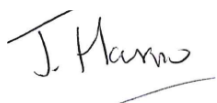
Monday 6th September – CPD day. School is open for staff only

Tuesday 7th September – new school year begins for students

Wednesday 15th September – CPD day (Team Teach training for all staff). School is open for staff only. There will be one more CPD day which will be confirmed well in advance.

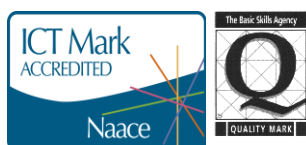
The staff and governors have been working very hard in lots of areas and I am very grateful for this. There is a real commitment to the success of the school. Please contact myself or a member of the Senior Leadership Team (SLT) if you want to discuss anything raised in this letter.

Yours sincerely



Jon Harris

Interim Head teacher (with Executive Powers)



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