



Cranbourne Business & Enterprise College

Wessex Close, Basingstoke, Hampshire, RG21 3NP

Telephone: 01256 868600

Fax: 01256 868601

Email: gen.enquiries@cranbourne.hants.sch.uk

Website: www.cranbourne.hants.sch.uk

Headteacher: Mrs B Elkins (B.Ed, M.A. Ed)

19 July 2016

Dear Parents/Carers

I am writing with an update following our OFSTED last December 2016. Whilst much of the work we have been doing has been mentioned in our newsletters I felt it might help to draw together a summary of the action that has been undertaken, to ensure that outcomes for students continue to improve and that when we do have another visit from Inspectors they will write a much more positive report.

As you will be aware we strongly opposed the findings of the Inspection on a number of accounts and have appealed against the judgement. Whilst an appeal of this nature has many stages and rumbles on I have already had several conversations with OFSTED officials. Whilst some issues remain unanswered so far, and we have even received an apology on some points, we do know that the judgement will not change. In their most recent summing up to me they stated that they had the evidence that:

- Inspectors had seen students dropping litter
- Inspectors had heard swearing in the playground
- A student had been seen absconding the College site between lessons by jumping over the fence behind the swimming pool

On this basis alone the judgement of inadequate will remain for safeguarding. Whilst we are not proud of any of these things we cannot argue with them, although, I do find it harsh that these are the reasons given for a school being judged as inadequate. OFSTED guidance states that a school judged as inadequate will have a visit from Her Majesty Inspectorate (HMI) within 3 – 6 months however 7 months later we have heard nothing.

When I spoke to the students at the time the report was published our stance was that we must move forward by 'proving to the world that we are better than that'. Students and staff have been phenomenal in doing this. We are determined that we must learn from the experience and ensure that Cranbourne is rapidly recognised for the GOOD College that it is.

With this in mind we have been working hard throughout 2016 (and will continue to do so) to take this opportunity to self evaluate and make things better! Some of the things we have done include:

- Two independent reviews of safeguarding both of which have concluded that our safeguarding systems are robust.
- Student questionnaires and interviews have been introduced termly to ensure we listen more carefully to students.
- Assemblies from senior leaders have addressed issues such as bullying, poor language and homophobic comments.
- Governor and further staff training on safeguarding has taken place.
- All Federation policies on safeguarding have been reviewed.
- Our PDL Curriculum has been rewritten across all five years and reworded as our Safeguarding Curriculum.
- There are improved displays around the school site to signpost students and staff to where they can go for help and assistance if needed.
- We have started to work with Educate and Celebrate to ensure we are fully embracing the Equalities Act of 2010.



- External support for how we can improve information on our website has been bought in.
- Two monitoring visits from the Local Authority (LA) have not found anything inadequate. They have been able to recognise a lot of good features about the College and have concluded that the College is on a trajectory of rapid improvement.
- Various LA Advisors have been in the College working with middle and senior leaders to review action planning and the variety of systems used within the College to monitor student progress and the quality of teaching and learning. They have also worked in a variety of subject areas to look at curriculum planning, particularly, in light of the many extensive curriculum changes being imposed by Government for both KS3 and KS4.
- Local Authority review of provision has found that our provision for NQTs and trainee teachers is good so that we can continue to employ them.
- Leaders have been working hard on systems to track progress across KS3 given the demise of the National Curriculum Levels. We have been liaising with the Local Authority Advisor to develop our system across the Federation which we are advised is now at the forefront of County practice. There will be information for parents of the new Year 7 on how this will work early in the Autumn term.
- Governors have undergone safeguarding training from the Local Authority Designated Officer (LADO).
- Parental Questionnaires from monitor day found that 90-95% of parents felt that their children were safe, happy, making good progress and that the College was well led.
- By introducing the 'Late Gate' our procedures for monitoring punctuality are much more stringent.
- We have increased staff duties before school.

We have written a new Action plan for the Autumn term where we aim to continue our work in making sure the College continues to improve. We will look to continue to work with Advisors from the Local Authority to ensure the quality of teaching and learning continues to improve and leaders have a clear vision of how to achieve the best possible outcomes for students.

The College has also been investigating the possibility of the Federation being sponsored by a local multi academy trust and the support that a network of this type might be able to offer. Representatives from the academy have visited the College and been impressed by what they have seen. More information on this exciting opportunity will follow early in the Autumn term.

I have been overwhelmed by the support both the College and I personally have received from Local Authority, Governors, Local Schools, Parents, Staff and Students. I cannot begin to express the feeling of solidarity which we have witnessed. However for a variety of reasons, both professional and personal, it is now the right time for me to move on from Cranbourne. I am delighted to report that the College is fully staffed with experienced, qualified teaching staff for September, something we have struggled to accomplish for all of this academic year! The Local Authority will appoint an acting Head teacher for the Autumn term and will continue to support the College as it goes from strength to strength.

It only remains for me to sincerely thank everyone for all of their support and wish you all a good summer break.

Yours faithfully



B Elkins
Headteacher