

23rd September 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

Mid half-term update

I am writing to update you all on how things are progressing in school now that we have been back for a few weeks. Our students have settled into their new classes and routines remarkably. I would like to thank you all for sending your children to school even when I know this can cause anxiety for some parents. It is SO important that education continues to ensure that our students have the education and life chances that they deserve. Those children who have been at home isolating where family members have been affected by Covid have received learning to do at home and have continued to access the curriculum. It is not the same as being in school, being taught by a teacher, but thank you for ensuring their routines and learning continues.

We have already taken the end of year maths and reading assessment tests from the previous year group that we missed at the end of last year. We followed that up by analysing the results and we had an extended staff meeting last week to plan for every single individual student in order to address any gaps in learning due to being absent from school during lockdown earlier in the year. This means that every child has a personalised learning plan in place depending on the ability they are working at and we have a full intervention programme run by our very competent learning support assistants to ensure that any gaps are addressed straight away.

We will sit our normal assessment tests at three points during the year and you will receive a report to show you where your child is on their learning journey. We are unsure as yet as to whether we will be able to run our parent consultation evenings in the usual way, but if not we will arrange some form of appointment and contact with your class teacher, even if that cannot be face to face.

We should receive the 'Catch Up' funding from the Government over the next few months and we are working with the Dixons Trust looking at the most effective way to spend these funds in order to ensure that no child is left behind.

So many things in school have been affected by this pandemic – our main focus has been on health and safety – but we have been monitoring other changes carefully (drop off and collection, playtime zones, lunchtime routines etc.) and adapting and improving where we are able.

I would like to thank those of you have told us we are, in the main, getting it right – it means so much to us all in school as we struggle with the balance between teaching a full curriculum and ensuring that everyone in school is as safe as can be. If you have any comments or suggestions please fill in the questionnaire that was sent home this week, or email the school on info@dixonsmb.com. You can also request a telephone conversation with your child's class teacher via the email system if you would like to discuss any issues.

Thanking you for your continued support and understanding,

Yours sincerely



Helen Haunch
Principal

