

26 March 2018

Dear Parents and Carers

Monitoring visits

Thank you for your support during the last term. It has been extremely busy and we have had two monitoring visits in the last month to review standards at the school. On the 23rd February the Department for Education sent in one of its most experienced educational advisors, who had previously visited the school before it moved to the Bourne Education Trust, to assess the progress made since last September. The review noted the transformation and congratulated the staff and students on the positive atmosphere, relentless focus on teaching and learning and the potential of the school. Most importantly, she recommended that the school needed no further visits from the Department for Education before its next scheduled Ofsted inspection in the Spring Term of 2020.

The school underwent an externally led teaching and learning review on the 13th and 14th March. The overall conclusion was as follows:

Considerable progress has been made since December 2017, when the school was last reviewed, although there remains a significant legacy of past underperformance, which will take time to eliminate. The improvements in teaching and learning have been sustained, and, as a result, pupils continue to make good progress in most lessons.

Staff continue to buy into the vision of the school and teachers are committed to improving learning and progress in the classroom. There are now some real consistencies in practice in teaching, learning and assessment and in behaviour management across the school.

Students are encouraged to become autonomous, independent learners, and, as a result they develop a curiosity and genuine interest in learning.

Regrettably, the review team also noted that there is still a small minority of students who persistently misbehave. Parents and carers have been very supportive of the school in our actions to challenge them and, perhaps, more importantly the other students are increasingly intolerant of their behaviour. These students need to understand that Everest Community Academy is no place for those who are not aspirational and do not want to achieve.

The new academic year

I have decided that the new academic year will start on Monday, 4th June 2018 rather than waiting until September. The reason for this is that students in year 8 and 9 will be able to start their GCSE options half a term earlier than normal and therefore give them a real advantage over those who will have to wait an extra 2 months. It will make no curriculum difference to those students currently in years 7 and 10 other than the fact that they will be known as year 8 and 11 respectively.

Regarding the next year, I am delighted to announce that we are already fully staffed. You will see that many local schools have vacancies but that is not the case here. Sadly, Mr Gausden (English) and Mrs Zubler (modern foreign languages) leave us at the end of this term.



However, I am delighted to announce that Mrs Simpson will be re-joining the English department and Mrs Cummins has returned from her maternity leave to lead the modern languages department once again.

Tutor time

Currently the school day starts with lesson 1 and tutor time does not take place until 10.30 a.m. When the new timetable starts on the 4th June, tutor time will revert to the start of the day. This means that students still need to be in school at the same time as now but go straight to their form tutor instead of first lesson. Tutors will check students' uniform and equipment at the start of each day – we still have some students who don't even bring a pen to school. Please ensure that you child is properly turned out and equipped every day.

Changes to the timing of the school day

From September 2018, we are proposing to reduce the length of both break and lunch by 5 minutes each. We have consulted with the student council, wider student body and staff and all have welcomed the change as they see it as supporting behaviour across the school. I can confirm that the catering team are confident that all students can be served in the slightly reduced break and lunchtimes. I want to stress that there will be no reduction in teaching time under this proposal. Consequently, the new school day will start at 8.30 a.m. and finish at 2.40 p.m. rather than 2.50 p.m. as it does now.

If you would like to comment on any of the proposed changes please do not hesitate to contact me. We are looking forward to welcoming the year 11 students to Easter revision school on the 5 - 6th and 9 - 10th April. For the rest of you, I wish you all a lovely break and we look forward to seeing everyone again on Monday 16th April.

Yours sincerely

Mr A Russell
Headteacher



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To make our best better



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Head teacher: Mr Alex Russell
Telephone: 01256 465547
Oxford Way, Sherborne St John, Basingstoke RG24 9UP
Email: info@everestcommunityacademy.org
www.everestcommunityacademy.org