

9 May 2018

Dear Parents/carers

re: INSET DAYS 2018/19

The Langley Academy Trust leaders have been working on the priorities for next year and identifying the INSET programme that will support that development.

One of the main reasons for becoming a Trust was to utilise the strengths of each academy to help accelerate improvements where required. We have been really pleased with the impact of this work as evidenced by our external reviews. In November 2017, Ofsted judged The Langley Academy secondary as a school that continues to provide a really good education. In April 2018, we held an external review at Parlaunt Park which was led by an Ofsted Inspector and involved other local Headteachers. The review stated that it is now a good school, although this is not official until we receive another Ofsted Inspection. Finally, whilst we are expecting an Ofsted visit this year at The Langley Academy Primary, our most recent external review also in April suggested that the quality of education is at least very good with an outstanding curriculum, a view that is supported by the Department for Education.

However, we still have work to do to develop our Trust culture and school to school support. It is vital to us that we improve in any areas that will ensure we meet our vision statement of ***achieving an outstanding education for every child in the Trust.***

Having researched the success of other Trusts, we have seen the very real benefits when schools have several days of training together at the beginning of the school year. This helps to provide clarity in roles, supports the planning for success programmes and enables us as leaders to make our expectations very clear at all levels. Without this, schools often find themselves playing catch-up, particularly when so many new initiatives emerge from the government throughout the year. These INSET days will cover content that will range from curriculum design, best practice guidance in the classroom to expected leadership behaviours and expectations on policy adherence eg safeguarding and behaviour management. The programme fits in with our mantra of 'clarity, consistency, accountability and impact' and will allow some additional time to embed our Trust culture on the first INSET day, September 3rd 2018.

Consequently we are going to deliver 4 INSET days for September 3-6 (instead of either the 1 or 2 days each academy had originally intended). This means the term will start on ***Friday 7 September 2018 for students in years 7 and 12 only and on Monday 10th September for those in years 8 – 11 and year 13.***

Additionally, we will hold an INSET day on October 1st to support the Performance Management process to allow leaders and staff time to consider their performance and identify their professional development needs for the year, to support improvement in their classroom practice. This will also

include opportunities to discuss action and research for staff both in their own schools and across the Trust.

We will then have an INSET day on Thursday January 3rd and Tuesday April 23rd at the beginning of each term. This will help consolidate the expectations but also allow us to respond to any self-evaluation processes.

I hope you understand the reasons for these changes but please contact me if you have any concerns.

We are determined to provide the best possible education for your children and believe this programme will help us achieve that aim.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'R. Bryant', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Rhodri Bryant
Executive Principal