

26 November 2015

Dear Parents

I am writing to inform you of our decision to hold an additional INSET day on Tuesday 5 January 2016. This will follow on from the INSET day on Monday 4 January 2016. You will be aware of the significant number of changes to education in the last 18 months. In particular this has covered the curriculum in almost every subject area and how we are now meant to assess the curriculum commonly known as 'life after levels'.

There have also been significant changes to legislation in regard to safeguarding and in particular in relation to the prevention of extremism and radicalisation. The Counter Terrorism and Security Act 2015 places new reporting requirements on schools and academies. Recent events have meant there is an elevated focus on prevention of people being drawn into terrorism. Part of the overall counter-terrorism strategy is known as 'Prevent' which is a multi-agency responsibility, and as such schools and academies have a role to play. The revised guidance for OFSTED inspection teams, in place from September 2015, demonstrates the expectations placed on school/academy settings and explicitly states what inspection teams will consider whilst on site. Critical to fulfilling this role is ensuring all staff and volunteers have a clear understanding of Prevent Duty and what is expected of them.

It is our view that we must respond appropriately to these changes and we can only really achieve that if staff are trained appropriately and that means having time to be trained. This is critical if we are going to offer the outstanding education that we aim to achieve.

The two days will focus on curriculum, the assessment of that curriculum and how we engage parents in understanding these two issues and critically on our safeguarding policies and how we ensure all staff and Trustees/Governors, students/pupils and parents understand what our policies are and how they will ensure the safety of children and staff in the Trust. Part of the training will involve all staff in the Trust working together and part of it will involve each academy working on their specific priorities.

I appreciate that this might cause some inconvenience but I hope you understand our rationale for this INSET day. This means the first day back to school will be on Wednesday 6 January 2016

Yours sincerely



Rhodri Bryant  
Executive Principal



Jane Sweeney  
Headteacher



Tracey Bowen  
Headteacher

