



The Pinvin Fed-Express

Newsletter Issue 4 December 2016



Our Growing Reputation (Federation)

As a Federation, we have had a number of Due Diligence visits over the course of the term, as we begin to prepare for Academy conversion in joining the Diocese of Worcester Multi-Academy Trust (DOWMAT). As part of this process we have had many discussions about promoting our offer and sharing our journey, so the following is just a brief summary of the state of play across the Federation and how we will operate moving forward. We are currently the only Federation joining the DOWMAT which places us in a strong position in shaping the organisation and taking a lead. This is also reflected in terms of some of the changes that we are making on the ground in our attempt to offer the pupils a high quality education.

Over the past two years we have invested heavily in specialist teaching at St Nicholas CE Middle School, whilst retaining a more Primary approach in the key transition year 5. We believe strongly that specialist teaching should not just impact on our Secondary aged pupils but also in KS2. Therefore we have invested heavily in specialist Physical Education, French and Music teaching and extra-curricular provision in these areas, developed the teaching of Religious Education and Humanities and have recruited a secondary-based experienced teacher to lead Art and Design Technology. In the First School we have also extended provision of sport and peripatetic music tuition and the feedback has been really positive.

Across the two schools we have also looked innovatively at Inclusion to ensure that we have a strong and clear approach to supporting all our pupils. The investment in a Speech and Language Therapist in the Early Years and beyond is having an impact in terms of raising standards. Relax Kids is another investment that has promoted the support and development of pupil confidence in both schools. We have also utilised our high quality support staff in the delivery of programmes such as Word-blaze and Numicon. Our own data and observations of Inclusion cement a picture that this continues to be a real strength.

One of the most important aspects for the Federation is in furthering our sense of family and community. Both schools are under the Pinvin Federation of Schools umbrella but retain their small school identity and we will continue to develop this.

Our First Graduates (Federation)

The Children's University was launched earlier in the Academic Year and we have had a range of events publicising our new link including a Parent Information Evening, Assembly at St Nicholas Middle School and an Assembly this week at Pinvin First School. We are delighted that we will have our very first graduates this December, with 4 pupils attending the Ceremony at the University of Worcester. Congratulations are very much in order and we will continue to encourage pupils from across both schools to sign up.

Learning Council (Federation)

Mr Kehoe has been busy training and supporting the Learning Council this half-term. They are now actively involved in lesson observations, focusing on the learning habits of the pupils and how they are engaged throughout. The pupils from the Learning Council provide constructive feedback to their peers and appropriate next steps. The aim is that pupils become more reflective on the attributes of an effective learner and then put these into action.

Fond Farewells (Federation)

We will be saying a fond farewell to a number of staff at the end of this term. For the last year Miss Gemma Whitehouse has been a very valued member of the teaching assistant team at the middle school, providing 1:1 and classroom support. We wish her well in pursuing a career in the armed forces. Mrs Sue Dickson will also be leaving us at Christmas, she has taught over the last few years in both the First and Middle School and will be missed by pupils and staff alike. We would like to thank her for the time she has given to the Federation; one of a few staff who have had the privilege of teaching across the two schools. All the best Mrs Dickson. For over 20 years in the Middle School and recently across the Federation, Mrs Carolyn Gemson has been a mainstay of the organisation. With a knack for turning recyclable waste into objects of artistic beauty, a real advocate for pupil voice and democracy and a very kind heart that is evident to those that know her; she will be very much missed. She starts her retirement in Africa, working in schools, which will be an amazing experience, and we very much hope she will return to support the work we do around Forest School. Finally for those of you who knew Mr Warren Bennett from Pinvin CE First School a few of us shared a meal with him on Friday night after the POPS Christmas Fayre. We shared with him the many gifts and presents on behalf of us all and it is safe to say that he was touched, especially with the football kit and signed Valentino Rossi print. It was lovely to see him, he shared anecdotes and stories and as ever with Warren, he sent his best wishes to everyone and was exceptionally humble. We very much hope that in due course he will become well again.

SNMS Pupil Fayre (SNMS)

It was lovely to see so many pupils from across the Middle School actively involved in running a range of indoor and outdoor stalls for charity. In what will be a final event coordinated by Mrs Carolyn Gemson, the Pupil Parliament put on an amazing show for an hour on Friday afternoon which raised a huge amount of money for a whole range of really worthwhile causes. It was wonderful to see so many parents and pupils there and we would like to thank you for the support.



POPS Winter Fayre (PFS)

A huge thank you to the POPS team alongside many First and Middle School staff for what was a lovely Christmas Fayre. It was an evening of festive food, lots of prizes, opportunities to purchase goods and experience early Christmas. The highlight for many was a visit to see Father Christmas in his grotto. A huge thank you to those who supported what was a really lovely evening where we could come together as a community and have some fun.

New Visitor Entry System (Federation)

We have put in place a new visitor entry system at the main Federation office which uses touch screen and swipe card technology. The aim is to improve our system of logging staff and visitors in and out of the building and keeping the site secure. As with any changes, we have office members of the staff who will be able to help you when you log in for the first time.

Educational Standards (Federation)

As a Federation we use GL Assessments to assess our pupils from Year 1 through to Year 7. These are nationally recognised tests that provide age standardised scores and enables us to compare ourselves in each year group with the national picture. These are important tests as they are used in every year of the Federation and for the last two years have correlated in Year 2 and Year 6 with the Statutory Testing data, which gives additional confidence in terms of accuracy. Importantly for us, they give us diagnostic feedback around specific areas of strength and weakness, we can then look at patterns and trends in reading, writing, mathematics and science. There is no Science test for Year 7 currently.

We would like to make parents aware of the progress that pupils make during their time in both our schools so have collated the brief table below which shows the starting and end point data for both schools. What needs to be taken into account is cohort variability but the data gives an indication of the value that we add in both schools. As a Middle School with the standards we are achieving now at the end of Year 7, which are significantly above national, we are preparing the students very well for their path to GCSE.

Year Group	English	Maths	Science
Year 1 PFS	97.8	92.4	Not Tested
Year 4 PFS	102.3	99.8	Not Tested
Year 5 (Start) SNMS	104.5	97.7	104.8
Year 7 SNMS	107.9	108.8	106.1 (Year 6)

Interim Reporting (Federation)

We are at the point in the term when we collate our school performance data from our end of Autumn Term assessments. The data will be analysed over the holiday period and some moderation of outcomes will be undertaken through sampling. We will then provide parents with a very simple report towards the end of the second week back after Christmas. The report will focus on whether your child is currently on track to meet Age Related Expectations. You will then receive a similar report after Easter in the same format and then a final, detailed report towards the end of the Summer Term.

Health and Safety (Federation)

PFS: This is a kind reminder to all parents and carers that the First School tower should not be accessed by pupils at either the start or the end of the school day. For the same reasons, we also ask that the undercover area outside the Year 1 and 2 remains child free please at the beginning and end of the school day and that parents supervise their children at all times. Thank you for your cooperation with this.

SNMS: We do ask that parents and carers of pupils who travel by bus support us in reminding your children of the importance of wearing their seatbelts and in staying seated for the entire duration of the journey. Everyday we check all the pupils on the coaches prior to leaving and want to emphasise the importance of safety both to and from the school.

Enjoy the festivities across the Federation in the last two weeks & I wish you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.