



The Pinvin Fed-Express

Newsletter Issue 7 March 2017



Changes and New Appointments

You should all have received a letter at the start of this half-term sharing some exciting changes that will be taking place as of September 2017. There is always a balance with any change, as too much change can cause uncertainty but too little change can cause stagnation. I think that as a Federation we have got the balance right, as we look to further improve our provision for our fantastic pupils. We have made two dynamic but very different appointments to the respective Head of School role. They will very much be working with Mr Best on securing developments over the next few years. Mrs Chatterton has been a long and established member of the Middle School team and has risen through the ranks to take on a leadership role that has addressed performance in English at both the First and Middle School. She played a crucial part in supporting the team at PFS in securing a good Ofsted outcome. Miss Rushton, in contrast, has had experience at Primary school level, with recent stints as a senior leader at Crabbs Cross Academy following a spell of teaching in Beijing. She has transformed Inclusion across the Federation and has put systems and processes in place that have supported pupils in receipt of Pupil Premium and/or who have Special Educational Needs. These are exciting times for the Federation and we will be making other changes in due course. One of the things we are blessed with is a hard working and dedicated staff who are very much focused on securing the best outcomes for our pupils.

National Article for the NGA

This has certainly been a month of positive media coverage for the Cluster, which is always good to see. We have had plenty of our own good news stories as well, with the 'Good' outcome in the Pinvin CE First School Ofsted that mirrors the judgement eight months ago at St. Nicholas. One of the key successes of the Federation has been the work of the governing body in developing, with the Executive Headteacher, strategic vision and aims. Kevern Oliver, our Chair of Governors has recently written an article for the National Governors' Association 'Governing Matters' publication that draws attention to this and the fact that, as an organisation, we are very much leading educational change. Not many of you may get the chance to read the article but the March/April publication talks about our approach to measuring our strategic aims through performance indicators and also has a lovely photo of our pupils.

Worcester University Partnership

The Middle School PE Department will be joined by students from Worcester University during the next couple of months. Following our successful Ofsted and reputation for sporting success we will be working with some student teachers again but are focusing on Physical Education. The students from the University will be under the supervision of Mr Modley and will be working primarily with a class of Year 5 and 7 students. We very much want to support the development future PE teachers and leaders and see this as a good opportunity for students to hone and develop skills.

The other nice part about this is that it links with other partnerships that we have with the University including the Children's University link. Once again, I will take this opportunity to plug pupil involvement both inside and outside of school in joining clubs, visiting sites and being active participants.

Transition Year 5 Pupil Voice

On the 1st March we had a number of our first school heads and year 4 teachers join us for a detailed look with the pupils at the transition to Middle School. This followed a very successful exercise initiated by the Middle School with Pershore High School with a focus on Year 8 in December of last year. The key findings of the visit are that the processes of transition between the first schools and St Nicholas are very effective and that any changes we make as a cluster will be to tweak and refine what we do. The pupils talked confidently about their experiences in the First Schools and equally how ready they were to move on and take the next step at Middle School. Areas that they particularly referenced were the seamless approaches to marking and feedback, the early Year 5 residential, opportunities to widen their friendship sphere, from what is in essence a rural catchment and experiencing more specialist facilities and teaching. The pupils commented on feeling appropriately challenged in their First and Middle School experiences and in seeing the move from Year 4 to 5 as a natural transition. Areas that we will be looking at moving forward are looking at more opportunities to mix across classes and also to focus on other areas where consistent policy will support progress. A huge thank you to first school heads and Year 4 teachers who visited and in particular to the Year 5 pupils who were a credit to their feeder First School and ourselves also.



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Bloodhound Project

As part of the Middle School approach to developing pupils' STEM skills Mr Kehoe has been driving a project around social enterprise that is capturing students imaginations. The Bloodhound Project is a high technology project based around a 1000mph land speed record. A range of pupils are currently involved in a linked educational project at St Nicholas where by they are designing and making their own cars and will compete against each other shortly. They will then take their projects further. Mr Kehoe has really captured the pupils imagination with this. We have been grateful for the support of the "Friends", Mazak Engineering and Worcester Bosch.



Year 4 Malvern Residential

We were all so impressed with the pupils in Gold Assembly last Friday as they shared their many experiences from the residential in Malvern. This is always a very special experience and this year was no exception. The pupils participated in such a range of opportunities from climbing to tunnels to working together with others in a team. They have come back more mature and more ready for Middle School than ever before. A huge thank you to the team that made the residential such a success.

DOWMAT

We are now approaching the day of conversion. So this will be the last newsletter that will come from us as a Local Authority maintained school. So what will be the difference? In essence, hopefully for you as parents and carers, not a lot, but for us as a Federation we will be looking at better service provision, higher quality support and services and continued autonomy. We have been impressed to date with the organisations that will be delivering services, property services and health and safety for example they are much better equipped to support the work we do. We are very much going into the DOWMAT in a position of strength so will aim to be a key player in shaping the future vision and educational offer over the next year. A strong DOWMAT will support stronger outcomes for all our pupils.

Homework Club

If you haven't seen our Homework Club in action, it is definitely an area of the Federation that is worth a visit. Mr Best took the opportunity of visiting on a Wednesday lunchtime and was very impressed with what was taking place. Over 30 pupils attended in the time he was there, with some on the computers on Rock Star Maths, others working on specific homework tasks and some coming along just to support a friend, which was lovely to see. Mrs Zaynochovsky was excellent in her support of the pupils in this session and the club continues to go from strength to strength.

New Library

We are delighted to have achieved planning permission for a brand new library facility that will be based between the two schools as a shared Federation facility. The new sectional build that will be constructed at the end of the Summer Term will also provide additional room for meetings and additional toilet facilities for the pupils. Combining the libraries in a fantastic space will also allow our current library at SNMS to become a Federation performing arts and music centre.