



The Pinvin Fed-Express

Newsletter Issue 11 Jul 2017



Federation Welcomes and Goodbyes

We say goodbye to some much loved and treasured members of staff this week. Mrs Clements and Mrs Dobell have been the mainstays of the First School Office for many years and we will be very sad to see them go. I would like to thank them personally as two lovely ladies who do so many things behind the scenes. Happily, they have both agreed to return to support during busy periods in the office. We also say farewell to Mrs Louise Gerber, who has been a first school TA for many years and Mrs Oksana Mormentyn a Middle School TA. Both have given service to the respective schools and will be very much missed. Finally, we say a fond goodbye to Mrs Sarah Daly who has worked tirelessly as a SENCo for a number of years and Mr Sean Storey who has successfully passed his NQT year and will be moving on. Both have new exciting ventures and we thank them for the time and energy they have given the Federation.

We have some exciting new additions for September and I have already covered most of these in the June newsletter but here is a quick reminder. Joining the team will be: Mr Huw Evans in Year 6 and 7, Mrs Lucy Smith in Year 5, Mrs Keziah Greenstreet in Year 3 and Mrs Clare Kilby in Reception. We strongly believe that with each teaching appointment we are combining youth and experience and adding to what is a very successful team of people. We congratulate Mrs Natali Brown who is expecting her second child and are pleased to inform you that we have appointed maternity cover for her. Mrs Brown has particular expertise in Art and Design, and will start the year delivering this to some of the year 5 and 6 classes, she will then be covered by Mrs Sally Coleman, another experienced teacher when she begins her maternity leave. We all wish Miss Laura Smith well, as she gets married in the summer and becomes Mrs Laura Barker. Finally, our office team in September will be: Federation Business Manager—Mrs Sue Townley, Federation Office Administrator—Mrs Anna Denne, Federation Finance Administrator—Mrs Belinda Watkins and Federation Receptionist and Administrator— Mrs Val Hunt.

Federation Scores on the Doors

We are delighted to be able to share with you our provisional data outcomes across the Federation in what has been another successful year in the First and Middle School. In terms of overall performance, we have increased our overall Standardised Aged Scores in English, Mathematics and Science, building on what were already strong results from 2016. Our Year 6 Statutory Test results have been maintained in writing, with an increase in the percentage of pupils at greater depth. We have increased the number of pupils reaching Age Related Expectations by 10% in reading, Grammar Punctuation and Spelling and by 29% in Mathematics. In Year 2, our target this year was to increase the percentage at greater depth in all areas and we have managed to accomplish this, the numbers at Age Related Expectations are lower than last year, but we were expecting this. In Phonics in Year 1 we achieved an 85% pass rate with phonics screening, which is a three year high. As with all results there are some fluctuations and the summer will involve an in depth analysis as we look at strands within subjects that will then become a strategic focus for the next academic year. The results are the strongest since the Federation began in 2014 and are a testament to all the teaching and non-teaching staff and the hours they put in to getting the best out of the pupils.

Early Dates for the Diary

We are at that time of year again when we are already preparing ourselves for September. We know how busy your diaries can become so want to inform you early of some key dates already set for the Autumn Term. It is so important that the children settle early on and that you have a clear picture of how we work in particular year groups, our expectations and the offer in terms of the curriculum. Therefore we have the following 'Meet the Teacher' dates set for the Autumn Term, in the second week. These will be from **4.30pm-5.00pm** at the Middle School and **3.30pm-4.00pm** at the First School.

Monday 11th September 2017: Year 5 and Year 2

Tuesday 12th September 2017: Year 6 and Year 3

Wednesday 13th September 2017: Year 7, Year 1 and Year 4

In Reception, as the pupils are on a part-time phased entry into school, we will look at an opportunity for you to come and see the children in action during the first few weeks of the Autumn Term.



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PFS TA Provision

We have made some changes to where the teaching assistants will be principally based in September 2017. Mrs Sinnett will now be joining Year 3, Mrs Rushen Year 2 and Mrs Gibbs Year 1. We have such experienced and fantastic TAs they can work anywhere to be honest, so apart from the change of name, this should not have any impact in the classroom.



Graduation 2017

The Art Factor

One of the areas that we have focused on this year, with the appointment of Miss McSwinney has been Art and Design. The investment in a subject specialist is paying off. The quality of some of the art work displayed in the Art Exhibition would not look out of place at Pershore High School and I must give some personal mentions of artistic excellence. Tom Shuter, Jake Ramsden and James Harvey, along with many others have produced some inspirational pieces of work and have taken art, which hadn't been a strength of the school, to a new level. Well done to all our Middle School artists and to Miss McSwinney for the impact she has clearly had.

POP Stars

A huge congratulations and well done to all the participants that took part in POP Stars at the First School. It was an amazing evening and it was fantastic to see so many children stand up the front and show their hidden or not so hidden talents.

Himbleton Collaboration

I have had many messages of support in relation to the collaboration with Himbleton and some genuine concerns for myself, Mrs Chatterton and Miss Rushton for taking on more. The key difference in September will be one of capacity, both Mrs Chatterton and Miss Rushton have quite a heavy teaching commitment at the moment that equates to between 40%-70% of their time. This reduces in September, along with my own, to 10% , therefore allowing them to be more strategic and on the ground. We also have a very strong Assistant Head team, with Miss Newman joining PFS and Mrs Hooper and Mr Dodson at SNMS. They are all highly experienced professionals who have a wealth of knowledge and expertise and will continue to be tremendous leads for the Federation.

We are seeing the collaboration with Himbleton as a mutually beneficial venture, with staff in both schools already talking about shared opportunities for trips and visits , tapping into Himbleton's outdoor learning ethos and sharing new expertise. It will also give the pupils at Himbleton a more seamless journey up to the Middle School and will enable us, as we do with our PFS pupils, the opportunity to work with families earlier which undoubtedly impacts on creating better progress overtime. The collaboration is very much about strengthening what we have and adding even more value to our provision in the future.

Equipment List

As a Middle School we have reviewed our expectations of equipment that pupils will need to have in school to operate effectively in lessons. We are aiming for them to take greater ownership and responsibility and to have much greater independence. It is important that we begin to prepare our students for High School from an early age. We will always retain some core equipment and will provide for those pupils that need it. The list below is our core equipment list for September 2017:

- 2 rollerball/fountain pens (black or blue ink)
- Red pen (rollerball rather than biro)
- Pencil
- 30cm ruler
- Rubber
- Sharpener
- Protractor
- Highlighter
- Whiteboard pen (and rubber if possible, j cloth works just as well!)
- Glue stick
- Art Shirt

Thank You

We would like to thank all parents and carers for working with us this year and we look forward to the new term.