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Headteacher Mr. David Bailey

16th November 2018

Dear Parent/Guardian

We have now had time to settle back into routines after our first half term break and as Head, I have had time to reflect on our achievements and challenges so far as well as think about what we have ahead of us. As shared in my last letter the year promises to be an exciting one, as we continue to build on some of the key changes we have made in driving the school's vision. On top of all the new implementations last half term a key focus was Academy staffing. I am pleased to announce as from January we will be fully staffed and the use of day to day supply will be minimal.

So, what have we done so far?

- Central Academy hosted **Parent Forum** evenings, by year group, and I was grateful for the opportunity to meet some of you in person and share with you my vision for the school for the future.
- We devised and launched a new **Behaviour Policy** setting clear expectations for pupils. This has 4 key stages of verbal, yellow, amber (30 minute detentions) and red warnings (1hr detentions). Beyond this traffic light system are a further 3 waves which lead to a parent meeting and pastoral support plan being produced. To support this, we rolled out the use of **Class Charts** to document and track positive and negative behaviours providing visibility for parents to access student activity during each school day.
- We appointed and commenced our relationship with a **new catering provider**, Caterlink, and carefully selected a new menu incorporating valuable feedback from pupils.
- We re-launched **breakfast club** whereby pupils are able to arrive at school from 8am onwards to enjoy tea, hot chocolate, toast and cereal free of charge in the canteen.
- We also launched our **biometrics and cashless catering** system and I would like to thank pupils and parents for embracing this change with enthusiasm. The decision to go cashless will ultimately speed up our catering service allowing more time for your children to enjoy their lunch or socialise on the playground with friends.

What is coming before Christmas?

- We will continue to **upgrade the decoration and facilities** of our school site to enhance the learning environment for our pupils.
- **More communication.** Hopefully you are receiving key messages by text. If not, please contact the school to ensure we have the correct contact details for you. We continue to work on our website but for now you will notice, under Key Staff, we have shared direct email addresses for Senior Leadership and Heads of Year; this is in response to our parent forum feedback.
- **New Mobile Phone Policy (19th November Start)** which will mean although students are free to bring their phone to school, it will need to be kept in a school bag and turned off until the end of the school day. If it is seen, it will be confiscated and returned at the end of the school day. On the third occasion of this happening, a parent will need to come and collect the phone.
- **Reward trips** will take place in December to thank our students who consistently display positive behaviour and excellent attendance.
- **Yr11 Enrichment Sessions** to support our continued dedication to Teaching and Learning. This is where we will offer optional after school sessions to Yr11 pupils, 2

subjects per evening, each for 45 minutes, starting at 3pm daily. We hope you will support us to help your children achieve the best possible outcome in terms of results next summer and we will be communicating directly with Yr11 parents over the coming weeks with how to help.

What is coming January 2019?

- **Change to school day timings from January 1st 2019.** I propose that from January, all pupils should be onsite by 8.25am when the bell will ring to signal pupils to move their first lesson. There will be no change to the start of the school day at 8.30am however the requirement for pupils to arrive by 8.25am will allow a 5-minute transition to class so that learning can commence without delay, moving promptly to the do-now activity. I would also like to add 5 minutes to break to ensure students have the time to have refreshments and/or use the toilet to prevent use during lessons. As we have split break this will mean the school day will be extended until 3:10pm.
- **Literacy for Life** will be launched in January 2019 for Yr7 and Yr8 pupils and I am excited to advise you that we have made our final selection of staff to support the Literacy for Life curriculum.
- Our **SEND team** will also will be strengthened alongside the opening of a Central Academy **mentoring hub**.

CORE values

Central Academy is lucky to receive the forward thinking support of CORE Education Trust and together we will continue to market and embed our values; **Collaboration, Opportunity, Respect and Excellence**. We will do this by listening to you, to pupils and to staff to strive for continual improvement and I'm sure you will be glad to hear that I will not compromise in my quest to provide the best possible learning environment for your children so that they can achieve the best possible outcomes. I believe this encompasses both academic achievement as well as preparing our pupils for life after secondary school, whether that be further education or employment where punctuality, adherence to policy and a good attitude are often used as indicators of performance. With this in mind, I believe it is reasonable to ask for your support to encourage your children to embrace the changes ahead of them.

As always, my door is open to pupils and parents and I look forward to meeting more of you over the coming months.

Yours sincerely

Mr D Bailey
Headteacher