



Headteacher's May 2018

1. Community

A Year 6 Retreat Day at Pantasaph is arranged for Thursday 17 May. The event is attended by all of our Partner Primary Schools. The Emmaus Days for Year 9 are arranged for 14 and 15 June. They will be led by Father Fretch and the RE Team.

The school has started to plan for involvement in the Eucharistic Congress 'Adoremus' which is taking place in Liverpool 7 – 9 September 2018. Diocesan Secondary Headteachers are attending a planning meeting on 7 June.

2. Staffing

Congratulations to Amy Hibberd who has been appointed to the post of Deputy WBQ Coordinator following interview on 9 May. Natalie Brant, who is currently employed covering a maternity in Drama, has been appointed Head of Expressive Arts at Elfed High School.

As part of our Support Staff restructure, Joe Jurdzis (Site Manager) will be leaving on 31 May. Debbie Seel (Finance Officer) is leaving on 30 June. Tony Hayes (Caretaker) and Joanne Griffiths (Supervisor Cleaner) take up their new posts this month.

Mary Owen (Teaching Assistant) has accepted the offer of Early Voluntary Redundancy.

3. Induction for new Governors

An induction session for new governors will be held at the school 3:45pm – 5pm on Wednesday 16 May.

4. ICT Strategy

The server replacement planned for this Summer as part of a wider Flintshire programme had to be brought forward due to a server crash. Thanks to very hard work by our ICT technical team and excellent support from Flintshire, the new server is now in place and whole school systems are running.

The server problem has highlighted the difficulties we face with ICT equipment across the school. Virtually all of the school's 580 machines are more than six years old and many operate on the XP version of Windows. To avoid a 'cliff edge' scenario, Flintshire have offered to support us through Prudential Borrowing. The school has used this in the past to fund projects such as the school minibus. Currently, the money is repaid over five years but it maybe possible to extend the repayment period.

The three year budget figures you already have include £150,000 in Prudential Borrowing but it is likely that £200,000 will be needed.

Peter Weston, an ICT Consultant, will be managing the project. Peter is meeting with Middle Leaders at their meeting on 15 May. He will follow this up with individual meetings with Curriculum Leaders on 17 May. At this stage we will have a clear view of the ICT needs of subject departments.

An ICT strategy meeting, which includes Peter and members of the Flintshire ICT Team will be held in school on 17 May.

5. Flintshire Meetings

John Callan and I attended a School Performance Monitoring Group meeting at County Hall on 30 April. The meeting was attended by Cllr Ian Roberts, Claire Homard, Vicky Barlow and Dave Bateman from the Finance Team. The meeting discussed our application for a licensed budget deficit and £200,000 in Prudential Borrowing to support the ICT upgrade. A formal resolution to apply for the borrowing is needed. A copy of John's letter and our financial projections for the next three years has been shared with you. John and I together with other Flintshire Chairs and Heads also attended an early 2019-20 budget meeting with Colin Everett, the Chief Executive. There will be further discussion and updates at the meeting.

6. Summer Exams

GCSE, AS and A Level exams started on 8 May and will continue on a daily basis until 20 June. Year 11 and Year 13 study leave begins on Friday 25 May. After this date students will be in school for intervention sessions and exams only.

7. Year 7 in September

The number of students joining the school in the new Year 7 in September has risen to 125 with appeals at several local schools still to be completed. The decision has been made to organise the year group into five forms rather than four. New parents' Evening is on Monday 25 June.

8. Teaching and Learning

The window for Performance management and Peer Lesson Observations is open and will close on Friday 29 June. Peer Lesson Observations will focus on best practice related to two school priorities – provision for more able students and boys' achievement.

9. Attendance

Attendance for the current academic year currently stands at 93.2% (below last year's 93.6%).

10. Complaints

There are no complaints.