



Principal's

UPDATE

Saturday 8th October 2022

Dear parent

Welcome to the first Principal's update which will be issued every fortnight. The intention is two-fold, firstly to try to reduce the amount of information in the COAST magazine which in recent months has been quite sizeable; secondly to increase regular communication to parents raising awareness of forthcoming events, student celebrations and relevant Academy news.

World Mental Health Day

World Mental Health Day commences next week on Monday 10th October. As part of the "Making a Difference" campaign we will be hosting a variety of activities throughout the week at Oasis Academy Sholing. This includes the launch of our Year 11 Mental Health and Anti-bullying Ambassadors who will be available in the library at break and lunch-times throughout the forthcoming weeks. They will be clearly identified with their white shirts and hi viz jackets walking around the school site. We will also be launching our "Don't be afraid to be afraid" campaign. We are very aware that some students are shy and unsure with regards to seeking support especially in the early years such as Year 7. As such we are promoting our poster campaign identifying our three mental health and well-being staff, Mrs Wiltshire, Mrs Pattison and Mrs Evans-McBride. There is a discreet contact on the posters where students can quickly contact if they feel they need support. This is in addition to the on-site support we receive from the Mental Health NHS Team and our own Clinical Psychologist.

Road Safety Middle Road

I am increasingly concerned with regards to the high speed and dangerous driving around the school roads, in particular Middle Road. As our school grows in student numbers we have increasing issues with students exiting at the end of day. There have been a small number of incidents where students have been injured or have had near issues with traffic. The small width of pavements has not helped, and I have recently raised this concern, again, with Southampton City Council. I am glad to say that

the Council has acknowledged the need for action and as a result we are anticipating traffic calming measures in the near future.

Parent communication (Reception)

I am well aware that parental communication is a key to a successful school contributing to students who achieve their personal best. Reception is often the first experience that you have of the school and so it is important that this is right for both parents and the academy. I am excited to announce that we have appointed a receptionist from our local community and who knows the school well. We are really excited that Ms Louise Andrews will be joining the Academy in the first week back after half-term.

INSET 14th October 2022

A reminder that next Friday 14th October, the Academy will be closed as a result of the Trust INSET day. Staff have been allowed to “dress down” in return for a contribution of tinned goods, sanitary products or toiletries, such as toothpaste or deodorant, for our local East-side Hub. It is a growing concern, as we all know, that strains are increasing on families in so many ways due to increased fuel costs, inflation and period poverty. The Hub is distributing more food and products to families since it was started, and supplies are becoming tight. However, we continue to have the resources to support both in school and at the Hub. Please remember that we will ensure that our students attend school without feeling embarrassed due to their family situation. We have significant supplies on site of hygiene products, food and a breakfast club which we supplement for all students. We supply school shoes, tights and other aspects of uniform for free if required. Please do not be in a position where you feel this is an imposition, it is not. Please do not hesitate to contact the school via email info@oasissholing.org or direct to Mrs Hughdie, Operations Manager, julie.hughdie@oasissholing.org, where your request will be handled discreetly.

Parental Engagement Group (PEG)

The PEG is an important parental group where new proposals are discussed, and parental views considered. We recently asked new year 7 parents if they would be interested in adding two positions to the team. We have been over-whelmed by the applications and will be short-listing on Monday in preparation for our first meeting of the new school year, on Thursday 13th October 2022.

Proposed development and structural repair

The Academy has been affected with structural concerns over the past years and as a result there has been a planned safety programme which will commence during October half-term continuing throughout the year. We aim to make this as non-intrusive as possible however it will entail all the windows in the main block being replaced and the refurbishment of our Food and Nutrition rooms to industry standard. We have also finally, after many years of delay, signed off the front of house development which will include a new reception, multi-purpose sports hall and creative arts performance area. This will also increase the seating capacity for lunch as well as replacing the current dining area seating.

Behaviour re-set

We have been working closely with our school colleagues to ensure that all students feel safe on site and that lessons are not disrupted. For a small minority of students attending lessons is a difficulty and this can lead to misbehaviour. Whilst supporting these students we are also ensuring that their behaviours will not affect the majority of the students. As such we have talked to our students over

the past week with regards to expectations and consequences around such actions as promptness to lessons or lateness in the morning. I know that you will support the Academy to ensure that lessons are delivered to a high standard without disruption.

Halloween potential disruption

I have been asked to raise the following concerns with our parents from Hampshire Police and Southampton City Council. As you may be aware, last year there was considerable disturbance in the West of the City on Halloween Night. This year the authorities are working together to avoid a repeat of the incidents that occurred such as damage to property, thefts from local shops and the tipping of cars on to their sides. The behaviour of the youths involved caused harassment, alarm and distress to a number of residents and considerable disruption to those living in the area.

We want children and young people to enjoy Halloween safely. However, it is important that we continue to prevent these incidents from happening again. We are aware that some children and young people believe Halloween is an opportunity to act out and cause disruption on Halloween, including for social media. We would like to ask parents to ensure that they discuss with your children the risks, ensure that you are aware of your children's whereabouts on the evening and make them aware that anti-social behaviour and crime will be dealt with swiftly.

Officers from a range of services will be working with the Police on 31st October to ensure Halloween passes safely.

If anyone has any information or thinks they may know someone who is involved in these incidents, please call 101 or alternatively call Crimestoppers anonymously on 0800 555111. Incidents or information can also be reported online at the Hampshire Constabulary website, at <https://www.hampshire.police.uk/ro/report/>

City Athletics Championships

On Friday 29th September, 35 of our students competed in the City Championships at the Southampton Sports Centre. We finished 6th overall as a school, a very good result considering our Year 11 team did not attend to add more points. The squad achieved 17 top 3 places and the following students were crowned city champions:

James Humby-Farmer- Long Jump

Vander Thompson- 100m

And finally...

Congratulations to Annika Van Leewen who has beaten entries from students from over 30 schools to win a national poetry competition. Her poem is a real lens on how our young adults perceive the world will decline if current concerns are not addressed. Well done Annika I am so proud of your winning entry!

SECONDARY WINNER

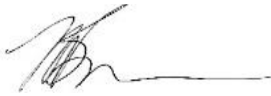
*Oasis National
Poetry Competition!*

Downfall -
a poem by Annika at
Oasis Academy Sholing

How had the world ended up this way?
They tried to warn us but all that we'd say:
"The world will be fine, there's nothing to fear"
Not knowing that if we looked into the future, we'd be here
The green space and blue skies that you could once see
And the trees planted by people, who used to be
Now, rats scurried round this old barren place
Burn marks and and cuts on their body and face
The shards of glass from the houses once there
Left me wondering, how could nobody care?
How was I born into a world like this?
And where are the animals that used to exist?
And the people who used to inhabit the town
Did the floods from the icebergs cause them to drown?
Or perhaps the heat was the one to take them away
They once wanted heat and ended up begging for rain
Whatever took them it must have been strong
To take away all that used to belong
However, maybe just maybe if they had acted with passion
As if they didn't want any of this to happen
Instead of sitting back apathetically
They could have acted and stopped this catastrophe

If I could speak to the past my message would be
Come together in peace, the world all in unity
Don't let the future end up this way
We must now act upon what they say.

Best wishes



Martin Brown
Principal