

Executive Headteacher

Thursday 21st October 2021

UPDATE

Dear parents/carers and students,

As we are now at the end of Term 1, I wanted to write and share a few thoughts with you all.

Despite experiencing some disruption on learning due to the pandemic and witnessing some staff and students testing positive for COVID, it has still been a very good start to term! We hope that you feel reassured that all our teachers continue to set classwork and homework online using the Show My Homework APP, as this will help support students in keeping on track with all work.

All our new Year 7 students across the Trust have settled extremely well, as have the Year 12 students at Bourne Academy. We are proud of all our students and the way that they have returned to school in September, it is brilliant to see that learning is so focussed, behaviour is excellent and our students are so mature in their approach to school ... well done to them all!

This term has been extremely busy, with the successful Open Evenings, where we welcomed over 3,000 visitors to our schools, which is incredible and demonstrates just how popular our schools are. Additionally, we have also welcomed approximately 200 visitors from business, industry, universities and apprenticeships to our schools for the very successful Careers Fairs. The Year 8-13 students really enjoyed this experience and many were equally excited about both researching their future careers as well as the fantastic 'careers goody bags'!

Also, this term we have seen sports matches, after-school enrichment, school trips and visits, art clubs and performance rehearsals all resume ... which has been FANTASTIC! After nearly two years of no visitor and no enrichment activities and events, it has felt quite emotional at times to see all our amazing students participating in such a wide range of activities.

One thing I would like to take the time to share with our Year 11 & 13 students in particular, but it is also relevant for students in all year groups, is that they are not to worry about any course work missed due to the impact of the COVID pandemic. Please be reassured that we have robust systems in place to support all students in being able to close any gaps in their learning. Currently, all Heads of Department have worked to complete an assessment of where students are achieving and have completed gap analysis work. They have been identifying key content to revisit as the academic year progresses. For Year 11 & 13, we are still waiting on full guidance of what the summer 2022 examinations will look like and I will update you all when this is known. Additionally, we will be continuing to roll out our usual, but this year enhanced, intervention programme, which will take place via homework tasks, lunchtimes, after school and also during the Easter break period. Students need to feel secure that they will be well supported and in the knowledge that we have been planning and finalising our detailed strategies and approach.



Aspire • Challenge • Achieve

As we are continually looking to improve our communication systems, one thing that it is important to share today is a change to our 'newsletters', which were normally issued at the end of each short term. Moving forward, we will be replacing these extremely lengthy magazine style documents, with more regular communication shared via our school websites, Instagram and Facebook. In September our new Marketing Lead, Radford Hudson, joined our Trust and he will be updating the website and our social media platforms every time we have a news story to share. Radford has already had an impact and we see this change as supportive, as it will enable all our parents/carers and students to see success and celebrate achievements continually, rather than all held over to the end of each term.

Coupled with this, to support this change in our approach, from January 2022, the Head of School in each of the three schools will be issuing a regular short news bulletin to keep all parents/carers and students updated on all the exciting things our schools have to offer. The new Heads of School are Matt Sammy at Bourne Academy, Katie Belcher at Giles Academy and we will be looking to advertise and appoint a Head of School for Spalding Academy in November / December.

I hope that all parents/carers agree that this is a far more efficient and relevant way to share communication in the future.

Finally, I would like to thank all our parents / carers and students who contributed to the online questionnaire / feedback we sought this week. As the results of this have only just come into the school, I will share the finer details of the feedback after half term. However, I can share that we had more responses than in previous collections of similar information, with the following impressive numbers recorded:

- Students across the Trust: 1,300+
- Parents/carers across the Trust: 600+

This feedback will certainly help us to improve our schools even more!

I hope that you all have an enjoyable and restful break, thank you for all your support this term, and I look forward to welcoming all our students back to school on Monday 1st November 2021.

Kindest regards,



Mrs L Conley

Executive Headteacher SLATrust

For the latest news

For the latest news, visit our websites for more news and our social media links for Facebook and Instagram (please remember to follow us). You will see more information and photos from our recent Open Evenings, Careers Events as well as other news, which will be regularly updated each week.

www.bourneacademy.org

www.spaldingacademy.org.uk

www.gilesacademy.co.uk

Upcoming key dates

Thursday 11th November 2021	PSHE Day	Bourne Academy
Friday 12th November 2021	Children In Need	All Schools
w/c Monday 15th November 2021	Anti-Bullying Week	All Schools
Thursday 18th November 2021	PSHE Day	Spalding Academy
Thursday 18th November 2021	Sixth Form Open Evening	Bourne Academy
Thursday 25th November 2021	PSHE Day	Giles Academy