



CPD Federation

Newsletter

Issue 8.

SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT



As we fast approach a year of both schools being formally federated it is an opportunity to review some of the achievements we have made over the year. Both schools have flourished under the leadership of Lando DuPlooy at Dersingham and Paul Taylor and Rachel Speed at Central Park. They have been ably supported by the senior leadership team around them and my role has been to challenge, guide and support the Executive Team on all aspects of school improvement.

Each school has been visited by a School Improvement Advisor from the Local Authority each term. Her reports have celebrated many successes and made recommendations each time to continue the improvement journey. Each school has been delivering on the School Plan Priorities set at the start of the year. The most notable success to date has to be the reinvention of the curriculum and the focus on developing children as citizens of the future. Both schools have seen an improvement in attendance and a slight reduction in persistent absence. We also continue to focus on the groups of children we want to see do better. Whilst there has been some success with boys and those with special needs we know we can still do better.

As a result data is scrutinised systematically to analyse where further work is needed to get children to where they need to be. Following the slight increase in attainment at the end of the key stages last year, predictions for this year are for a continued upward trend in pupils' outcomes. Internally the data is looking stronger and hopefully SATs outcomes will echo this.

There have been a few joint projects this year for children to work together and we will continue to develop these opportunities. Central Park's sports teams do need to work harder to beat Dersingham though! It has been great seeing some children get to know each other well and develop a friendship. Staff have been working jointly on policies as we align more and more of our work. Ideas are constantly shared and we learn from each other. Dersingham has taken on board some different approaches to teaching and learning that have been successful at Central Park and Central Park has become more rigorous in some of their procedures and expectations taking on board the quality seen at Dersingham.

Governors have noted improvements in the learning environments and the focus of children in lessons; they also recognise the commitment of the staff in each school. I am sure when they visit the school during the summer term they will notice even more improvements.

So Happy 1st Birthday CPD Schools Federation! Let the partnership further develop and grow for everyone associated with the schools. The 2nd year will be even better and stronger.



SCHOOL BUDGETS

Governors have approved the budget for each school. The funding situation has not improved for schools. There is still a 'funding crisis' and the Government (whilst understandably busy with Brexit!) are not addressing the concerns expressed by schools. The most recent example of budget pressures introduced by the Government is from September 2019 schools have to contribute an additional 7% to teachers' pensions. This is significant rise costing Central Park over £100k and Dersingham approx. £65k. Whilst the Government has agreed to fund this increase (only this year, at this stage!) they have used a basic calculation based upon pupil numbers and this is unlikely to cover the outgoings for each school. In setting the budget, there will be fewer Teaching Assistants next year as agency staff and temporary contracts are not renewed. So whilst we have set two balanced budgets, close in-year monitoring means we will need to evaluate every £ spent and make decisions during the year which will be hard e.g. maybe splitting classes when a teacher is absent or not subsidising events to previous levels.

SATs—AND NOW WE WAIT!



A massive thank you for all your support during what can be a tense period for children, parents and staff alike. Whilst we push for academic success, we also keep the well-being of the whole child at the forefront of our work. The staff have worked hard all year to get your children ready for these tests and your children focused extremely hard during the last couple of weeks to do the best they could. It is a stressful time for all and thank you for everything you have done as parents to keep stress levels as low as possible. A Governor 'invigilated' each day during the delivery of SATs for KS2 and we are confident that all papers were administered correctly and due process was followed.

KS2 papers are marked externally and the outcomes are due to be reported back to schools at the start of July. Please do not keep asking the school if the results have been returned yet. As soon as we have the results and checked them we will share them with you. I trust you will be proud of your child's achievements and each school will celebrate the outcomes knowing they did all they could.

SCHOOL DATES



A reminder, each school returns on a different day after the half-term due to an Inset Day. Children return to school on **Monday 3rd June at Dersingham** but **Tuesday 4 June at Central Park**. Eid-UI-Fitr will be celebrated towards the start of the week we return. A reminder that both schools are open but absence for religious observance will be condoned. Look at the school's website for future school dates.

RELATIONSHIP EDUCATION

Relationships Education has become a 'hot topic' in recent weeks. I would like to just reassure you that Leaders will work with our communities to devise the curriculum that allows us to deliver on our statutory responsibilities (especially our Equalities Duty), supports the pupils as they develop in society and be sensitive to community beliefs. Both schools will consult with parents over the coming months in readiness for the changes expected in September 2020.

LEADERSHIP APPOINTMENTS

The children, staff and parents of Dersingham will see very little change in the leadership of the school next year. However, I am sure you will be pleased to hear that Lando DuPlooy will officially become the Substantive Headteacher of the school after a couple of years of interim positions from the 1st September; a position he has effectively held in all but name this year. There are no other changes to the current leadership team.



At Central Park, after the temporary arrangements this year there will be some changes to the leadership structure. We tried to appoint a Headteacher to the school but due to a limited field of applicants the process was postponed until next year. However, following an appointment process with Governors, Paul Taylor will become the Interim Substantive Headteacher for the next year; he will be the accountable person for the school. Rachel Speed decided not to apply for the role and she returns to her role as Deputy Headteacher from September alongside Rachel Egbulonu who continues in her role as Interim Deputy Headteacher. Both Atiyya Musa and Gemma Hunt will take up their substantive roles as Assistant Headteachers when they return from maternity leave alongside Julia Scott and newly appointed Paul Strange who will interim for the next year. Aabida Patel will also support the senior leadership for part of the working week. The interim positions will be held until a permanent Headteacher can be appointed to the school.

I will remain as the Executive Headteacher and continue to support and challenge the Executive Team, particularly both Headteachers, as they establish themselves as the accountable person for each school.

ENJOY THE HALF TERM BREAK

Wishing everyone an enjoyable half-term break next week. For many of our families you will still be fasting in the lead up to Eid-UI-Fitr, challenging at any time but even more so with the long hours of daylight. My best wishes during this month of Ramadan. I hope all of you get to have family time together over the break.

Darren Williams, Executive Headteacher