



Bourne End Academy

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Dear Parent/Carer

I would like to thank all of the parents who were able to attend the meet and greet event on Wednesday evening. I hope that the opportunity to be able to ask questions, discuss issues and raise awareness of some of your concerns was valuable. The feedback, both from the evening and from the emails I have received subsequently, certainly seem to suggest this. The issues that were raised, which ranged from homework (too little to too much), staffing issues (where I explained and we discussed recruitment and retention challenges), marking, uniform, working with and involving the local community more in the school, to name but a few, were all raised with my Senior Leadership Team on Thursday. By looking at these areas and with clear direction given to alleviate these concerns, we are now primed to ensure that we are allowing the students in our care, your children, to succeed, to their full potential in all that they do. As promised, I have also already begun to look for a date in January where a similar parental voice evening can be organised. As I stated last week, parent voice is vital to a successful school and so I would also like to thank the parents who have volunteered and/or contacted the school regarding the AAG. Further information regarding the appointment of parents to the AAG will follow in future weeks.

One of the immediate strategies that we are beginning after the half term break, w/b Monday, 29th October, is an SLT Clinic run by Mr Jaumbocus, Assistant Headteacher. The purpose of the SLT Clinic is for parents who have raised issues within the school, but feel that the issue may not have been resolved fully or further questions still may exist, to have an opportunity to speak, on a one-to-one basis, with a member of the Senior Leadership Team. The SLT Clinic must be seen as a final step when other avenues have been explored. If there is a pastoral concern then the first point of contact should be the Form Tutor, then the Head of Year, then the SLT link to behaviour or attendance, etc. If there is a classroom concern, the first point of contact is always the class Teacher, then the Head of Department, then the SLT member linked to that specific subject area, etc. Only when these avenues have been explored would attendance at the SLT Clinic be appropriate. Mr Jaumbocus will be available on a Wednesday evening from 3:30 until 4:30pm, starting on Wednesday, 31st October.

As you may be aware, World Mental Health Day was on Wednesday, 10th October. As a duty of care for all of our students, we took the opportunity to raise awareness amongst the staff body as well as the student body of the need for and support of good Mental Health. I hope that many of the students will have returned home and spoken about the things they have heard from assemblies or form time. There are many resources available to schools, to parents and to young people to support Mental Health Awareness. One such link that many parents may find useful is <https://youngminds.org.uk/find-help/for-parents/>. Please do not hesitate to contact the school for further advice, discussion, or to raise any concerns you may have. Only through a partnership of school, home and student, can we successfully support, help and safeguard your children and our students.

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Finally, to further clarify the expectations for students at Bourne End Academy, and to support our working in partnership, please find attached to my message this week, a letter from Mr Bannon, Assistant Headteacher for Behaviour and Attendance. If you have any questions regarding the letter, please do not hesitate to get in touch with the school.

Yours sincerely

Ryan Williams
Headteacher