

17th July 2019

Dear families,

As the year is drawing to a close I wanted to take the opportunity to share with you some of the developments that have been happening at the school this year and some of the things that we have to look forward to.

Plans have been moving forward at a pace to get our new sports centre and parking project to the planning phase. Having had a successful public consultation the project management team are now in the final stages of design so that we can go to planning in the coming weeks. Once we have approval, we will send an updated timeline of building activities to keep you informed of developments.

In addition to this we will be resurfacing our tired looking tennis courts over the summer and are continuing to fundraise to build an all-weather pitch. We are very grateful to parents' involved in the 'Pitch In' campaign, along with other contributors for their continued support in helping to raise money to provide for new sports equipment and to generate funds for a new all-weather pitch. With their help, £30,000 has been raised towards these sporting projects. We will be launching a designated fundraising strategy for these projects in the new school year to help reach an estimated target of £700,000 over the next few years.

Having now been at the school for almost a year, I have experienced first-hand what is so special about this school and what we do well and should be rightly proud of. We have well behaved students, supportive families and an excellent body of teaching and support staff who are all dedicated to helping your children to achieve their very best. But there are also things that we can do better or differently, in order to provide the very best education for all our young people. A phrase that I often like to use is that I want our students 'to leave us believing that they can stand shoulder to shoulder with anyone in the world'. It is our job to give them the skills, confidence and experiences to realise this.

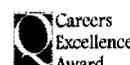
There are therefore, a number of changes that we will be implementing from September which I believe will help to move us further towards that ambition. The main changes relate to our behaviour policy; assessment recording and reporting procedures and our school to home communications. Further details of these changes can be seen on the summary document below, and I hope that you will see through the implementation of these changes, a strengthening in communications; a behaviour policy centred around the same high standards but with an increased focus on rewards and restorative approaches to behaviour as a starting point and a clear assessment policy that helps guide timely and appropriate support and celebrates achievement in progress throughout each young person's journey with us.

Moving further forward we will also be reviewing the current House system as we look to develop more opportunities for students to participate in activities outside of lessons, increase our charity work and develop a greater sense of community and leadership opportunities from Year 7 through to Sixth Form.

The Misbourne continues to be a Good School:

"A culture of ambition permeates the school; students are at the heart of everything the school does"

Ofsted



Further details on each of these developments will be sent at appropriate points throughout next year but I hope that this introduction gives you an idea of some of the direction of travel at the school. This is a good school with great students, and we want to provide them with the best possible education and opportunities to set them off on the best possible footing when they leave us.

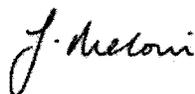
We do need your continued support to help us to achieve our ambitions and by sending your child into school on time every day, appropriately dressed and equipped to work, means that we can focus on their education as soon as they walk through the school gates.

To that end, can I please ask that students arrive no later than 8.35 am, that holidays are taken outside of term time, and that you support us with encouraging students to wear their uniform appropriately. This includes having shirts tucked in and not having skirts rolled up to inappropriate lengths, both whilst in school and when travelling to and from school as our students are always representing both yourselves and the school in our local community.

A newsletter of events that have been happening this term will be sent out at the end of the week and I hope that you enjoy reading about more of the wonderful things our staff and students have been getting up to. We also hope that the weather is more kind to us tomorrow and we can have our sports day to help finish off the year.

May I take this opportunity to thank you for your continued support and wish you all a very restful and pleasant summer holiday.

Yours sincerely,



Jo Meloni
Headteacher

The Misbourne continues to be a Good School:

"A culture of ambition permeates the school; students are at the heart of everything the school does"

Ofsted



Summary of changes for September 2019:

- Review of the behaviour for learning policy which has led to -
 - Removal of the Misbourne Way cards
 - Increased focus on rewards throughout the year
 - Introduction of breaktime detentions offering an opportunity for a restorative resolution with the class teacher before next lesson or escalation
 - Change in terminology from Merits and De-merits, to Achievement Points and Behaviour Points.
 - Incorporating the values within our Misbourne Way, 'Respect, Responsible and Ready' into the way we award some of our achievements points and into our new Attitude to Learning (ATL) grades that students will receive from each subject at each data collection point.
- Review of our target setting and reporting systems -
 - We know that students do not all progress at the same rate and in a linear fashion.
 - We are therefore removing end of year targets and replacing them with 'expected outcomes' grades to be achieved at the end of Year 11 for each subject.
 - We will use a nationally recognised database (FFT) to generate these grades. They may change slightly year on year as the national picture develops but these grades will give parents and students a good understanding of expected outcomes at the end of Year 11 based on similar students nationally.
 - At each Data Harvest, (when information is sent home three times a year), you will receive a code for each subject indicating whether or not your child is making the required level of progress towards these expected outcomes.
 - Introduction of Attitude to Learning (ATL) grades
- School to Home communications -
 - We will be launching our new website in September. This will become the 'shop window' of our school where families can find all of the important information that you already do, but it will provide a showcase to all of the excellent work that goes on day in day out, with photo galleries, visual news articles and a direct link to our popular Twitter feeds right on the front page. There will also be a regular Headteachers Blog keeping you up to date with key news.
 - We will be reviewing the use of SchoolComms to ensure that all information shared via this method is accurate and timely.
 - A survey will be sent out to all families in the new year to gauge your ideas and perceptions on various aspects of school life including how we communicate with you.
 - We will also be trailing a new event for families and students. These will be marketed as 'Make the Grade' evenings and they will be for Years 9, 11 and 12 initially and involve a series of short workshops aimed at strengthening the link between child, home and school as we work together to support your child to achieve their very best. Workshops will be a mixture of specific subject information and tips to succeed and other supportive workshops such as mindfulness; dealing with stress; managing workload; revision tips and so on. We will be looking for both student and parental feedback from these sessions to see if they are worthwhile expanding to other year groups in the future.

The Misbourne continues to be a Good School:

"A culture of ambition permeates the school; students are at the heart of everything the school does"

Ofsted

