

March 2024

Dear Families,

RE: HEADTEACHER'S UPDATE – SPRING TERM

As we approach the Easter Holidays, it is timely to update you with events that have taken place, progress we have made as a school, and to look ahead to the start of the Summer Term.

John Taylor MAT have continued to bring opportunities to our pupils who have engaged with a Modern Foreign Languages competition, a Science Quiz at John Taylor High School and there have been a number of Exceptional Achievement Awards which will be presented this week in school followed by a meeting on Friday 22nd March with our CEO, Mr Donoghue. Please do look out for the nomination forms on our website, and through our social media channels. There will be another round of nominations for the summer term. If your child/children have achieved something that you know deserves recognition, you can nominate for a praise meeting in school, or for an Exceptional Achievement Award through the JTMAT.

The Science team that represented us at the recent quiz were incredible, coming away with a trophy for first place! The competition was strong but our pupils did us proud in their aspiration to demonstrate their breadth of knowledge and commitment to science.

On the 14th March we hosted two Headteachers from other secondary schools in JTMAT who spent the day with us talking to staff and pupils and observing lessons and social times. Pupils spoke with tenacity about our school and how they are working hard to support the improvements that have been put in place. Pupils said that they are enjoying having more rewards and recognition events, and they work hard to gain House Points for more opportunities of rewards. Our visitors specifically commented on how well our pupils regulated themselves around the site at break and lunchtime, and how respectful they were throughout their visit.

We have a very active Pupil Leadership Team, who meet regularly together, as well as with the Senior leadership Team. You may have seen our recent letter about the update to our toilet facilities, where pupils have provided detailed feedback that has guided decisions on how to upgrade the facilities. The current facilities will remain either boys only, or girls only, but they will become a more open-plan design with floor to ceiling doors, and a more easily supervised space. Accessible toilets will also be part of the refurbishment plans for pupils with disabilities and/or short-term injuries.

As you will know, we now do regular surveys and these go to pupils, parents and staff every half term. It is important that these surveys are completed so that we can listen to your views, and the views of those in our school every day to continue to drive improvements. Our recent parent's forum meeting was a very positive event where staff responded directly to the feedback from parents that attended the autumn term meeting, and provided a route for further feedback. Please see our website for more details on this.

Staff and pupils are relentlessly working hard to maintain high expectations of behaviour, and our staff continue to provide a high quality of education for our pupils.

In this we ask for your continued support by ensuring that your children attend school on time, and in full uniform. If you have any difficulties in purchasing uniform, please contact us for support. Personal Development lessons start at 8.30am promptly, so it is important for pupils to be on site by 8.25am. The school gates close at this time to ensure pupils are in class on time and ready to learn.

Our CATCH Hub is available for families to access if you need support in preparation for the Easter break, or for uniform support for the summer term. Please do let us know if you need a food parcel, or if someone you know may need one. The facility is not restricted to our parents/carers, and can be accessed by anyone in the community, including primary school families. We continue to welcome donations to the hub in the form of tinned or long-life foods that are non-perishable, and any good condition uniform items that your children may have grown out of. Year 11 pupils who leave us this summer are encouraged to donate their ties to the CATCH Hub once their exams are completed.

Our sports teams have again excelled in their competitive and leadership elements. The U13 girls football team won against Nether Stowe School in an outstanding performance of tenacity and resilience. The Y10 Basketball team won their match against Cheslyn Hay School with the game finishing a close run 14-13 to CTA! Y7 won their Netball match against Nether Stowe School and Y9 Netball stars won their match against King Edward School Lichfield.

Over the last half term, our pupils who are Sports Leaders prepared and delivered an exceptional football festival for our local primary pupils, demonstrating exceptional levels of leadership and aspiration in their co-ordination of the event. Sports Leaders also organised a Primary Athletics event which provided a safe and competitive space for pupils to learn new skills, meet new people, and build their confidence in competitive sports here at CTA. Thank you to all of these pupils who give up their time after school on a regular basis to ensure there are wider events for our younger community to take part in.

Finally, we wish to thank you all for your support this term. We have listened to your feedback and have taken swift action to improve the learning environment, make the school as safe as it can be, and to continue to maintain a high quality of education for all pupils. In the event that you have a comment, compliment, or complaint, please do contact the relevant person directly, rather than taking immediately to social media. Issues are much quicker to sort out when we work together directly. Our pupils are rightly proud of the improvements we have made and have been working with us responsibly to effect change. Whilst we expect our pupils to use social media and communications responsibly, we also request this of our parent/carer and wider community. It is the responsibility of all of us to model this kindness and respectful behaviour.

Yours sincerely,



Ms N Mason

Headteacher