December 2019

Dear Parent/Carer

I would just like to take this opportunity to say a big thank you for all your support in this, my first term as Headteacher. It has been a busy and productive few months, with the staff and students of West Coventry Academy rising to the challenge:

- All students started the academic year with a positive attitude and have maintained their efforts.
- The new policy of no mobile phones inside school is working very well, with very few confiscations and an increased level of concentration within lessons.
- Our new curriculum plans are having an impact, with students being clearer about what needs to be learnt and the teachers then checking if that knowledge has stayed with them through recall assessments and tests.

We also had a visit from Ofsted before half-term and although it now seems a long time ago, I have only just received the report. The report is based on a new framework, introduced in September 2019 and has significantly higher expectations than any that Ofsted have had before. There are five areas of judgement and this is how we were assessed:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Area</th>
<th>Judgement</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>The quality of education</td>
<td>Requires improvement</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Behaviour and attitudes</td>
<td>Good</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Personal development</td>
<td>Good</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Leadership and management</td>
<td>Good</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sixth-form provision</td>
<td>Good</td>
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</table>

All of the areas for improvement had been identified by myself and the Senior Leadership Team at the start of term and plans were already in place to address these issues. This was recognised by the inspection team, but we had not had enough time for all of these plans to show the improvement needed. The judgement for the quality of education is the one which limits the overall judgment, so we are temporarily classified as “requires improvement” until our plans have had effect and Ofsted come again to see the evidence for themselves.

The complete report can be found here: [http://www.westcoventryacademy.org/about/ofsted.aspx](http://www.westcoventryacademy.org/about/ofsted.aspx)

However, I would like to include the first three paragraphs from the report which I think show just how good this school is and what potential we have to become an even better school in the future:

“West Coventry Academy is welcoming and friendly. Pupils told us they enjoy coming to school, where they feel safe. Pupils know who to approach if they have a concern. They are confident that staff will listen to them and take action. Parents and carers are generally happy with the support the school provides.

Behaviour has improved a lot as leaders have introduced a new behaviour policy. Bullying is rare and staff deal with it when it happens. Pupils get on well with each other. They have positive attitudes to their learning. Pupils told us they enjoy most of their subjects. Pupils take pride in their work and
want to do well. They enjoy the range of activities that the school provides, such as trips and music events.

A new headteacher took up post this term. He and his staff want all pupils to do well. They know that aspects of the curriculum and the way it is delivered need to get better. Leaders have already put in place improvements in areas that are not so good. Staff, governors, pupils and parents are happy about the changes. They are confident that this will lead to further improvements.”

I am very pleased with what we have achieved so far this year and immensely proud of the students and staff of West Coventry Academy.

Still, all good things come to an end! The autumn term will finish on Thursday, 19th December, with students finishing at 12:25pm; all buses will be available at that time. The last day will also be a non-uniform day with the theme of ‘Christmas Jumpers’, which will incur a £1 ‘fine’, with all proceeds going to student leaders’ 2019/20 charity.

We will all return on Monday, 6th January at 8:45am, normal school time. There is no staff training day at the start of term.

As we head into winter, can I also give a couple of reminders about uniform:

Jumpers: West Coventry Academy school jumper. No hoodies or sports tops.


Coats: Warm, waterproof coat worn over their blazer. No tracksuits, denim, fur, or leather.

Any non-uniform items will be confiscated and students not wearing correct uniform will either be given spare, clean items to wear, sent home to change, or will be kept out of lessons until contact is made with home. Students will also be issued with a same-day detention.

Thank you again for your ongoing support. I hope you all have a happy, restful and festive holiday and I look forward to working with you in 2020.

Yours faithfully

Chris Paton
Headteacher