



HIGHFIELD LITTLEPORT ACADEMY

An Active Learning Trust School

Executive Headteacher: Simon Bainbridge
Head of School: Yvonne Skillern

Wednesday 6th March 2019

Dear Parents & Carers,

Here we are well into the spring term at Highfield Littleport Academy. Spring is nearly upon us and we have made a significant amount of pleasing progress this year. I am writing to update you on some developments within the academy.

To further develop our support for students and to gain new ideas and methods of working with our pupils to manage behaviour some of our staff have completed training in Steps. Two of our staff are now recognised tutors and are able to deliver training to others within our school. Steps puts emphasis on understanding the behaviour rather than punishing it. It is a therapeutic behaviour management approach, which puts the pupil at the centre. This is an approach we pride ourselves in here so I am sure that this training will complement and enhance everything we do at Highfield Littleport.

We are continuing our collaborative working approach with Littleport and East Cambridgeshire Academy. Some of our students from Swallows and Herons will be participating in a joint STEM Bloodhound Race Science event during Science week (wc 11/02/19). We also still have three students studying Maths at LECA who are making excellent progress.

I have to share some sad news with you about changes to our staffing in April. Yvonne Bowen, class teacher in Wrens has made the decision for family reasons to retire. She will not be returning after the Easter holidays. Yvonne will be a huge loss to our school but we wish her all the best in her retirement. She was instrumental in supporting the setup of our school and Early Years department from the very beginning and for that we are hugely grateful. We are currently within the recruitment process for her replacement and we will inform you of this along with any transition arrangements for your child when they are organised.

In April, we will also be opening a new class as part of our planned growth here at Highfield Littleport. We do not plan to change any student's classes at this stage as we wish to keep the disruption to existing pupils to a minimum. There will however be some minor staff swaps in order to facilitate opening this new class. Class teachers will keep you informed of this. We are also recruiting for other staff members to support classes and specialist roles around school.

At Highfield Littleport we have an active friends and parents association called Supporters of Highfield Littleport Academy (SOHLA). Recently the group has been successful in gaining a £2000 grant for Science equipment and £1500 for DT equipment which is arriving gradually! As many of you have seen we have now had our outdoor shelter installed which the students love! If you are interested in joining or helping out the group please email our joint chairpersons Anita Thursby and Mandy Darville on SOHLAtreasurer@mail.com

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Each term we have a Highfield High Five Assembly which parents are invited to in order to celebrate the great work done that term. This term's assembly is on Friday 29th March at 1.45pm. SOHLA are organising an Easter Egg raffle. Any donations of eggs sent into school would be greatly appreciated. SOHLA will circulate more information closer to the time.

Please note that the Active Learning Trust have also recently published an up to date Privacy Notice for parents, carers and staff in relation to emergency contacts and use of data. This has been circulated on Class Dojo but it can also be viewed on the school website by using the link below:

<https://highfieldlittleport.org/information/data-protection-and-gdpr>

Just to finish a few housekeeping notes. Could you please ensure each child has their PE kit left in school all week? We will send it home when it needs washing or re-sizing! Please ensure students in Robins, Owls, Sparrows and Eagles have wellies and appropriate outdoor clothing for their Forest School sessions in school at all times. In addition, attendance at school is extremely important to facilitate good progress and wellbeing. We would encourage you to support us with this and in helping us to maintain our baseline target of 92% attendance as a school. Attendance levels are continually monitored and any persistent absences mean that the school and local authority will take action.

We thank you for your co-operation and ongoing support.

Warmest regards,

Yvonne Skillern
Head of School