



ONSLOW ST AUDREY'S SCHOOL

Hatfield's Business & Enterprise Academy

11th May 2018

Dear Parent/Carer,

It has been a busy and extremely productive start to the Summer term and I am writing to update you on some of the changes and developments that have happened at Onslow St Audrey's since I joined the school in early March.

There has been a relentless focus on teaching and learning; ensuring that lessons are challenging for all students and that students are fully engaged. Many teachers have adopted the SONAR lesson structure (Starter, Objectives, New learning, Application, Review), and, in my many visits to lessons, I have been pleased to see engaged and hard-working students being challenged to do their very best. Teaching staff have been sharing good practice both within their own departments and across the wider school and both I and members of the leadership team have been engaged in positive professional dialogue with our colleagues as we work together to improve student outcomes.

I am also pleased to report that we have joined *Challenge Partners* (www.challengepartners.org). This is an organisation which enables collaboration between schools. It is a network of over 350 schools nationally. Each year, every school takes part in a Quality Assurance Review led by school leaders from other schools to help identify strengths and areas for development, always focused on teaching and learning and school improvement strategies.

I would like to thank you for your ongoing support of your son/daughter. The support that students receive from home is vital and I would urge you to continue to show an interest in your child's school work; ask to see their books, chat to them about their lessons and ensure they get enough sleep, eat well and keep mobile phones and social media use to a minimum.

Further to this, I would also like to remind you that it is your responsibility to insist on regular school attendance. It is one of the most powerful ways in which you set your child up to succeed, both in school and in life. The data is indisputable; the greater a child's attendance at school, the higher their grades. It is as important as that. The vast majority of students at Onslow St Audrey's have excellent attendance, but there is a significant minority whose poor attendance is already having a negative impact on their attainment. We are having a focus on attendance and pastoral staff are keeping a close eye on this, contacting parents where necessary.

Year 11 students have already begun their GCSE examinations. I have been impressed by the determination and commitment I have seen in the vast number of students as they prepare for these all-important examinations which will have the potential to change their lives. You may have read an article written by Mr Barnaby Lenon, former Headmaster of Harrow School and now chair of the ISC (Independent Schools Council) in which he advocates students revising for seven hours each day during the Easter break and also includes some useful tips for revision. I have attached a link to the article which makes interesting reading and the revision tips are useful for students of any age. <https://www.isc.co.uk/media-enquiries/news-press-releases-statements/good-exam-results-are-made-in-the-easter-holidays/>

Year 10 students have recently completed their end of year examinations, the results of which will, in most cases, be the rewards of hard work and determination. They will also provide invaluable diagnostic information for students as they move into their final GCSE year.



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You are already aware of the appointment of David Bullock as the new Headteacher for September 2018. Both I and the senior team are already working closely with him as we get ready for the new school year. Earlier this week, we held interviews for an Assistant Headteacher and I was delighted that Mr Bullock was able to attend the whole process. From a large and extremely strong field, we were able to appoint two exceptional school leaders who will be joining the school with Mr Bullock in September.

Finally, I would like to publicly thank Mrs Casotti for her outstanding work as Acting Headteacher. Her passion for Onslow St Audrey's and commitment to the whole school community are evident in everything she does and it has been a privilege to work with her over the last couple of months. Mrs Casotti will now be reverting to her substantive role as Deputy Headteacher and from Monday May 14th, Mr Bird will be the Acting Headteacher. I am very much looking forward to working with him in this role and I know that the school will be in extremely capable hands.

Yours sincerely,

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David Croston
Executive Headteacher