

Dear parents,

16<sup>th</sup> October 2020

As our first half-term draws to a close we have so much to celebrate.

Our students have now settled completely into school life and have adapted well to the centre's clear routines and boundaries. They have risen to the pace and challenge of lessons and have made rapid academic progress due to sheer hard work, dedication and perseverance. We have had notable achievements across a wide range of subjects with some students even attaining GCSE grades of level 6 in English and completing challenging algebraic problem solving.

We know that a good walk can do wonders for our mental health, and pupils particularly enjoy our weekly extended walk around Kingsbury Water Park, where we aim to combine physical exercise with the delivery of key subject objectives within real life contexts. They assure me that this has nothing to do with the promise of hot chocolate, marshmallows and the read of a 'good book' on their return!



### Local Authority Inspection

We are delighted to report that our compliance visit from Warwickshire County Council Alternative Provision Education Team was a resounding success. They had the chance to tour the building, meet with SLT to discuss policies and procedures and vision and strategy, and talk to our students. They remarked that they were 'thoroughly impressed' with our provision and were delighted to see our students relaxed, engaged in their learning and excellently behaved.

A member of staff from The Coleshill School was also able to visit our students this week. She too was delighted to see the pupils 'happy, relaxed and learning' and commented on the remarkable transformations that had taken place.

### We are expanding!

Following our very successful local authority visit, we are delighted to be welcoming further students to our centre.



## Parent/carers consultations

The progress of our students against their Individual Education Plans (IEP's) will be formally reviewed next week. We will be holding parent consultations on Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> November. These will take place either via telephone calls or by using Microsoft Teams. We will consult with parents next week regarding their preferred method.

## Key dates

The centre follows Warwickshire holiday dates. Key dates to note:

- End of half term – Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> October 2020
- Return to school – Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> November 2020
- End of Autumn Term – Friday 18<sup>th</sup> December 2020
- Start of Spring Term – Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> January 2021
- Teacher Training Day – Monday 4<sup>th</sup> January 2021

## Centre website

Thank you for your patience whilst our website undergoes further development. We hope our new site will be live before the end of half-term. The site address is [www.brightsparkslearningcentre.co.uk](http://www.brightsparkslearningcentre.co.uk) and will contain all key information including:

- the centre's aim's, vision and values
- how the centre is organised
- policies<sup>1</sup> and procedures
- curriculum details including home learning and careers education
- mental health and wellbeing
- parent page
- pupil page

A selection of our centre policies are available on our website including our child protection and safeguarding, e-safety, curriculum, assessment, behaviour for learning and SEND policies along with our complaints policy and procedure (not an exhaustive list). All of our policies are also available from the main office on request.

Should you like a printed copy of these, or any other of our policies, please email your request to [office@brightsparkslearningcentre.org](mailto:office@brightsparkslearningcentre.org).

## Safeguarding

Please be aware that the centre has robust child protection and safeguarding policies and procedures and that we will always act in the best interests of the child. We are asked by Warwickshire County Council to remind parents that:

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<sup>1</sup> School policies are divided into 3 categories: health & safety, operational and safeguarding.



*'Under the Education Act 2002 (Section 175 for maintained schools/Section 157 for academies/free/independent schools), schools must make arrangements to safeguard and promote the welfare of children. Parents/carers should know that the law (Children Act 1989) requires all school staff to pass on information which gives rise to a concern about a child's welfare, including risk from neglect, physical, emotional or sexual abuse. Staff will seek, in general, to discuss any concerns with the parent/carer and discuss the need to make a referral to Children's Social Care if that is considered necessary. **This will only be done where such discussion will not place the child at increased risk of significant harm or cause undue delay.** The school will seek advice from Children's Social Care when they have reasonable cause to suspect a child may be suffering or likely to suffer significant harm. Occasionally, concerns are passed on which are later found to be unfounded. Parents/carers will appreciate that the school's Designated Safeguarding Lead carries out their responsibilities in accordance with the law and acts in the best interests of all children.'*

### **Covid-19**

The behaviour of ALL our pupils continues to be exemplary – they have acted responsibly and sensibly at all times, regularly washing their hands, maintaining social distancing and following staff instructions.

High standards of behaviour and courtesy towards all individuals on the site enables everyone to feel safe, enjoy their learning and achieve their full potential.

We continue to observe COVID-19 protocols as defined by Public Health England. In order to maintain the safety of our pupils and staff we are observing the following procedures:

- a face covering will be worn when entering and leaving the building
- a face covering will be worn at all times when travelling to the centre on public transport or by private taxi
- hands will be washed on entrance to, and exit of, the building, and regularly throughout the day
- hands will be sanitised on entrance to, and exit of, each classroom
- pupils and staff will move around the building following the one-way system (this is clearly indicated by arrows and notices)
- pupils and staff will maintain a 2-metre distance (clearly indicated by tape on the floors)
- students will be seated at their allocated their own work-station / desk and will use their own personal resource box

### **Winter Coats**

With the change of the seasons, could you please ensure that your child has a warm winter coat each day along with suitable footwear for our Wednesday morning walk.

Claire Fyfe

*Claire Fyfe*

Principal