



As most will probably know I have been Acting Headteacher since January and tonight I wanted to let you know about some of the things we have been working on over the past 12 weeks. Myself, the staff and SLT have worked towards trying to provide a better teaching and learning experience for all.

Nine members of senior and middle leadership have embarked on nationally recognised qualifications to improve their capacity within the school. This training will be invaluable to them and the school.

Our main focus this term has been the eradication of RI teaching and the raising of pace and challenge within the classroom. Our Lead Practitioner in Maths has demonstrated to colleagues ways to do this and this led to observations with learning areas which has been very useful to them.

Teaching is always about keeping abreast of new ideas, sharing those ideas, working collaboratively and developing our own skills within the classroom.

A coaching system, to support those colleagues who need further development in the classroom, has been set up. Clear targets and timescales are essential for improvement. Accountability in any establishment is key.

Collaborative planning has featured heavily in improving the quality of SOW and ensuring that assessments allow for year on year progress. Each pupil has a flightpath and these are connected to the assessment grids, another task our staff have been working on, these show the skills that have been and are still to be achieved.

All learning areas have been encouraged to participate in meetings with the local Archdiocese for their subject areas and this has led to solid networks being utilised in science, English, P.E., R.E. and humanities particularly. These networks mean the moderation of assessments are more objective and good practice can be shared.

A new marking and assessment policy is now in place and we have seen the positive effect of this in our work monitoring sessions. New assessments are being created to fit into flightpaths and whole school exams for every year group will allow us to measure the impact of teaching and learning and prepare our pupils for the rigour of the public examinations.

Classroom observations information is held centrally and electronically and these can be seen by line managers who use the information to inform discussion about improvement.

We are currently working on a behaviour for learning policy to ensure that all pupils understand that key skills such as resilience and endeavour are central to their success. Developing good behaviour for learning is linked to improving the quality of teaching.

Some of the SLT have been working on improving pupils' personal development and offering opportunities for leadership and pupil voice. All classes in each year group have PSHCE captains who engage with the delivery of PSHCE within the classrooms.

All year groups have taken part in the chance to become Lasallian leaders.

Our senior prefects have run assemblies and in turn been role models for our younger pupils who have begun to organise and present their class assembly.

All year groups have given an immense effort over lent to raise money for charity. We will inform parents of the totals for each year group very soon.

The pupil listening service has been relaunched to allow pupils to feel safe in school.

The school council is now thriving allowing pupils to have a platform to voice their ideas.

Behaviour around the school has improved and is repeatedly commented on by visitors. Obviously, there is more work to do and the leads in this area are focusing on behaviour for learning in our next phase.

We are currently collaborating with St Joseph's College in Stoke, a teaching school lauded for its teaching and learning ideas. Next week we host its director of teaching and learning who will work with our head of maths and science towards further improving our teaching and learning. This is an exciting opportunity for the school.

Now that we have more support in the guise of Mr Wall, our capacity to improve is increased.

I would like to give my sincere thanks to all staff who have worked very hard over the past few months to remove the label of special measures. In particular, the senior staff who have been tremendous in their support of me and rigorous in their approach. I would also like to thank you, the parents, for your unwavering support and belief in the team.

Ms. C. Flaherty
Acting Headteacher