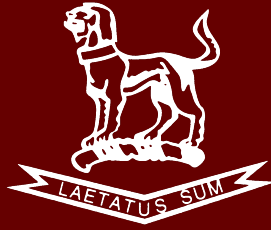


Holmwood House School



School Development Plan Update to Parents No. 2 March 2019

The [School Development Plan](#), which was shared with parents in October, outlined the priorities for improvements to various aspects of our school. Your feedback pointed to the school as being inclusive and aspirational with exceptional opportunities for our happy learners. Our valued ethos and culture, in which we celebrate and encourage individual success through a broad and diverse curriculum, goes hand in hand with developing strong partnerships with you as parents. We sent an update to parents at the end of the autumn term and this document aims to outline the next phase of development.

We are keen to share with you the progress we are making at regular intervals and we hope you will find this helpful.

If you have any questions regarding this update, please do not hesitate to contact me.

With best wishes

Alexander Mitchell
Headmaster

Curriculum Delivery

1. To enhance connectivity across the curriculum, ensure academic progress is closely tracked and monitored, and to give parents a clearer point of contact, Year 4 pupils will be class-taught for around 55% of their academic programme (English, maths, humanities, ICT, PSHCE, STEM and Learning to Learn) by two class teachers who will also be the children's tutors. They will have specialist subject teachers for the remaining 45% of their timetable (science, languages, art, music, drama, PE, games and swimming as well as a weekly year group forum.)
2. For similar reasons and acknowledging the need for an increasingly specialist approach at this stage in their development, Year 5 pupils will have two core teachers (one for English, humanities and PSHCE, and one for maths, science, ICT and STEM) and separate specialist teachers for languages, art, music, drama, PE, games and swimming as well as a weekly year group forum.
3. In Years 6 to 8, all subjects will continue to be taught, in two sets, by specialist subject teachers leading to a rigorous programme preparing children for entry to the wide range of senior schools to which we currently send children.
4. Throughout the school, our approach to the humanities - history, geography and PRE - will be theme-based and take on a global perspective. This is an exciting development as it will enable the pupils to learn about major global themes through the skills of the three disciplines with a more holistic view to help them engage with the world in which we live.

Leadership & Management

We have devised a new Leadership Team structure to ensure we achieve the comprehensive aims set out in the School Development Plan. As senior leaders, the Deputy Head, Mrs Bradbury, will have pastoral responsibility for the whole school and Mr McCormack, the Director of Studies, will oversee the curriculum and assessment of all pupils.

New Leadership Team from September 2019

	Deputy Head	Headmaster	Director of Studies	
	Mrs Bradbury	Mr Mitchell	Mr McCormack	
Head of Enrichment	Head of EYFS to Year 1	Head of Years 2 to 4	Head of Years 5 & 6	Head of Years 7 & 8
Miss Godman	Miss Henshall	Mrs Slater	Mr Cook	Mr White

The leadership structure shown above will support pupils' development in the following ways:

1. To ensure a clear flight path for our youngest children, Miss Henshall will have overall responsibility for the curriculum and assessment of our youngest children's development and progress from nursery through to Year 1. She will work closely with the nursery management to ensure a seamless transition to the school setting and on through to the first year beyond the EYFS (Early Years Foundation Stage).
2. To ensure continuity and clarity of the curriculum and assessment of children and to oversee their pastoral development, Mrs Slater will have responsibility from Year 2 to Year 4 ensuring the firm foundations established in the lower years are built upon in a cohesive manner.

3. Years 5 & 6 will be lead by Mr Cook whose role will ensure the pastoral and academic development of this crucial stage of the children's development, creating solid learning skills to enable strong and clear steps towards senior school preparation.
4. The upper years of the schools, Years 7 & 8, will be led by Mr White whose oversight will include pastoral, academic and senior school preparation at a stage in the pupils' learning which offers important opportunities for increased responsibility and ownership of their learning.
5. The co-curricular aspect of life at Holmwood is much-valued and Miss Godman's role as Head of Enrichment will continue to ensure that the diversity of the co-curricular programme at all stages is well-planned, coordinated and provides tremendous added value to our children's lives.

To support these changes, we will be introducing a single staffroom in the Library building for all staff from Reception to Year 8. This will provide a greater opportunity for professional dialogue between colleagues working at all stages of our pupils' development.

The Element System

One of the many strengths of the school is our pastoral care system of which we are very proud. Children value belonging to one of the Elements; Air, Land or Water. As is the current practice in the Pre-Prep, children in Years 4 and 5 will be taught in mixed-Element classes which will also be their tutor groups and their tutors will oversee their educational and pastoral development. In Year 6, there will be 3 Element-based tutor groups, 6 Air, 6 Land and 6 Water and in senior years, joint Years 7 & 8 Element-based tutor groups will give the pupils a real sense of responsibility at the top of the school. Their tutors will be Senior Element Tutors and will help the pupils oversee Element meetings and major Element events throughout the year. A Year 8 Head of Element will continue to be chosen from each tutor group annually.

Assessment

Further to our last update to parents, we have developed our use of assessment data and will be sharing aspects of this with parents in the summer reporting cycle. Our use of CAT data (Cognitive Abilities Tests) to establish pupils' baseline ability using national benchmarking will be gauged against their attainment in English and maths tests, ongoing teacher assessment, development of attitudes towards school and themselves, and the 5Rs learning skills. This will enable us to share with you information about the progress your child is making, the gaps that may exist in their learning and the next steps required to enable them to progress further to reach their potential. This will be fully embedded in time for the summer reports.

Pre-Reception Class

A separate document will be sent regarding arrangements for the Pre-Reception class in September 2019.

Next Steps

We hope you are as excited about these changes as we are. As ever, if you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at school. **There will be an information evening for parents on Tuesday 30 April to explain these developments.** We look forward to providing you with a further update in the summer term.