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Dear Parents and Carers

Dr. S. Jones EdD

headteacher

It's almost the end of the academic year and there are lots of different activities taking place and, with Enrichment Week approaching, planned for the last week.

Design and Engineering Centre

On 1 September 2016, we will formally take over possession of the building that was previously known as the Lichfield and Burntwood Vocational Skills Centre. We have been allocated a small budget from the County Council for some interior remodelling of the accommodation and this work has now begun. The new Centre will provide a much enhanced base for the Design and Technology team, and a dedicated area for our new sixth form BTEC Level 3 Engineering course. We expect to be able to use the new facility in September, so this is a very exciting time for the school.

Engineering Careers Fair

In May, we held an event (organised by Julie Poppleton, our Head of Information, Advice and Guidance) that brought together over 30 local and national employers, together with 15 training providers and FE / HE providers (including several Russell Group universities) to help our students to understand the wide range of opportunities available to them in the engineering sector. Attendance was excellent, with around 400 people coming on the night. The event was filmed by a professional media organisation, commissioned by The Careers and Enterprise Company, to contribute to a collection of best practice case studies. This will be shown throughout the country (and, when the video has been finished, we'll also take the opportunity to put a link on our website). The local business community have taken a keen interest in our work and we now have an excellent network of contacts in the industry to support the work we are doing. In addition to the support that they have pledged for our new engineering course, we plan to use them extensively for the new Year 10 employability skills programme that we are developing. We have recently had contact made from both Amanda Milling, MP for Cannock Chase, and Sajid Javid, Secretary of State for Business, Innovation & Skills. Amanda Milling visited the Centre (in its construction phase) and Julie Poppleton has been invited to lunch with Sajid Javid.

Stephen Sutton Multi-Academy Trust

As explained in my last letter to parents/carers, Chase Terrace Technology College has submitted an application to the DfE to create a Multi-Academy Trust. The wheels of the DfE turn slowly, so I have no further information on this at present. Depending on the nature of the response from the DfE, there may be a consultation about this proposal launched early in the next academic year. I will keep you informed of any significant developments.

Admissions

In response to the demand for places, following discussions with the Local Authority Strategic Planning and Admissions divisions, we are admitting 252 students into Year 7 in September. This is an increase of 20 students over our Planned Admission Number. The school site is large and, with our new accommodation, we can comfortably cater for this increase in the school population. An extra tutor group has been created and more staff have been recruited in order to ensure that class sizes do not increase. In Year 7, therefore, there will be five groups on the 'French' side of the year group and four groups on the 'German' side. We have also increased our home-to-school transport capacity.

Duke of Edinburgh Award

Last month I attended our D of E Awards evening and presented 27 year 10 students with their Bronze Awards. They gave group presentations and the event was very well attended by parents. Many of them are now going on to the Silver Award programme.

Sharon Thorp, the School's Business Manager, and Sam Pickin, Student Support Officer, also attended a function at Buckingham Palace, where our DfE licence was formally presented.

Arts Events

Just before the Easter break, our school show, '**Bugsy Malone**' ran a series of performances, including a matinee to children from local primary schools, and there were rave reviews from the audiences.

This term we had our biggest ever '**Big Sing**' event, which was held in the sports hall with over 140 students involved from six schools. There was a great range of choral performances, punctuated by some excellent solo pieces from CTTC students. The accompanying band was a combination of Highfields Primary staff and CTTC staff and students. Congratulations to everyone who took part in this fantastic performance.

In June, we also recently opened the doors of our new Design and Engineering Centre for the annual Art and Photography Exhibition, '**Distort**'. Despite the incredibly high bar that had been set by previous collections, many of us believe that this was even better than any of the previous years' exhibitions.

Newsletter

Please look out for this term's edition of the Newsletter, which will be posted on our website by the end of next week. This is the fourth edition and I've been really pleased with the range of features and the format of these publications. Rebecca Bynt, our Learning Resource Centre Assistant, brings the newsletter together and I'm grateful to her for the very professional and creative way that this is done.

Parents' Calendar

A copy of the Parents' Calendar for 2016/17 can now be accessed from the school website. For the new academic year, students return on Wednesday 7 September 2016. As usual, there will be a 'staggered start': please consult the Parents' Calendar for details.

Last day of term

As usual, we will be finishing early on the last day of term. Students will have lessons through periods 1 to 3 as usual and have a final registration period with their tutor from 12.20 pm until 12.30 pm. Students will then be free to leave. The canteen will be open until 1.00pm for students who wish to buy food.

As always, thank you for your ongoing support. Best wishes for a good summer.



Stuart Jones
Headteacher