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Introduction

Our first governing body meeting of the year finds the school in the most challenging times. Having set a budget forecast for the next 3 years in March built upon the projected economic climate at that time along with forecasted pay rises, we find ourselves, along with many other schools, unprepared for the seismic shock delivered upon the school finances. Energy prices have not only risen faster than expected but have more than doubled against our forecasts and exceeded any contingency that we have built in to our budget. We allowed for a 3% pay rise across all grades. However pay awards have been well above this and for the first time, in many years, all teacher grades and allowances have been increased by 5%. The local authority has recommended that we honour all pay rises in full. The retail price index now stands at 12.3% year on year and the consumer price index at 10% year on year. It is highly unlikely that the current government will seek to increase funding to the education sector over the next two years in line with inflation (current calculations suggest an 11% increase in the government education budget next year will be needed to just stand still. This is highly unlikely).

We are also being challenged by the local authority over our expansion programme. Initially I believed this was to move our funding elsewhere (to another school). However after having spoken with the Director of Education all non-school capital expenditure over £100,000 has been

suspended due to the current economic turbulence. So far school capital expenditure has not been threatened but a significant amount of uncertainty remains about all large capital expenditure.

I am meeting with Neil Best, Head of Strategic Resourcing Partnerships and Andy Johnson - Progression & Pathways Manager at London Borough of Enfield, this Tuesday to discuss the viability of the Oaktree expansion after I have met with Dani Lang, Senior School Improvement Advisor for Safeguarding & Inclusion) it has been a busy weekend of discussion!

I will be speaking with the local authority to look at a number of options to manage the school's future shortfalls with the borough (and Brenda) and will provide an update to the FGB at the next governing body. I will of course remain continue to inform (and work with) Alex during any discussions I may have with the local authority.

We will now provide student reports from EFL at the end of every term. The SMT have discussed a number of ways of getting parents/carers to become active users of the EFL portal. We will work with Sam to increase the number of users (by using major school events and by ringing a selected number of parents/carers each week. The reports will be emailed at the end of this term to parents/carers. However the intention is for parents/carers to access the report from the EFL app.

However it is not all terrible news! Kyri has followed up Sue Allen, EF course tutor for this academic year and she has confirmed that EF has settled in really well so far during her first week. Sue has said that EF has been listening and focusing well within her timetabled lessons, she completes all tasks expected of her and she has made a very positive start to her time studying here at Capel Manor College. We faced significant challenges in getting EF onto the course and so we are all extraordinarily pleased at EF's successful start at Capel Manor College. Peter Nathan has agreed to meet with myself and Capel Manor to gain clarity on why EF had such huge difficulties in being accepted onto the Capel Manor foundation course.

All our students have made great starts to their college courses. To highlight 2 students from last term MH and DA have been building chimney stacks at CONEL.

Peter Nathan, the Director of Education and Lucy Nutt Head of School and Early Years Improvement along with OFSTED inspectors Lorna Serieux, Frankie Ryder visited the school this Friday and all really enjoyed the visit. Both OFSTED inspectors were very complimentary about the school. The highlight of their visit was a wonderful assembly celebrating Rosh Hashanah, a special festival which celebrates Jewish New Year led by Sarah Cox and Sophie our Speech and Language therapist.

We have received a recategorisation letter from the School and Early Years Improvement Services, (SEYIS). A short excerpt from the letter:

"We will be keeping to the simplified system of the red, amber or green coding for each school. This local category will be confidential to the school. All the processes that are laid out in the SISP remain between the LA and the school unless a warning notice is issued. Your school has been categorised as: Green. If a categorisation changes during the year, we will ensure that a school is told exactly why that is the case. An Ofsted inspection grade change can alter the category immediately. Public action would not be taken until the report is published and the result is in the public domain."

As well as supporting the units at De Bohun, Lavender and Brimsdown School we are also offer support to other schools in Enfield as part of the SEN services outreach support. We have contracted support PRICE training: Physical intervention for secondary schools, Curriculum Guidance and support for ARPs and Units (ARPs/Units allocated by LA), Assessment, screening and intervention (not diagnosis) of Specific Learning Difficulties, Practice Support and modelling of inclusive classrooms and curriculum approaches.

Our special assembly to celebrate the Queen's life was attended by all students and had both a current student from the school and ex-student from the school to speak about their experiences of being in the Boys Brigades. One of the students showed his Queen's medal to the school (which of course will be the last of its kind for a while). A very proud moment for both boys and the school.

Curriculum

Pathways

We now have another 2 Pathway offers (the media group led by Sandra and Wiktorja) and the forestry and estate managements group led by Sarah Cox (they will be working with Carl at the neighbouring Church of England Seminary. Eleni is now managing the café with students supporting her from 8 am in the morning.

Reading

The majority of staff have been through the initial day's training of RWI and Fresh start. Staff are positive about using RWI even though it is very prescriptive. We will be running the reading test this term to check progress against the reading test last summer.

School Improvement Adviser

Dani Lang is the school SIA and will complement Barney Geen's role as our school SIA. I will be meeting Dani this Tuesday

General

Waterloo and City and DLR classes are now studying for their Entry level certificates in maths and English which they will sit in January. Black History month will begin on the 3rd October and will focus upon the contribution of people of colour to British culture, science and sport since 1940. Humanities week will focus on "What did the Romans ever do for us?" This is in keeping with this term's humanities subject area of ancient civilisations. The week will begin on 7th November.

We now have a member of staff volunteering every Wednesday to support Systemic family therapy for identified families. He has met with his first families last week. We now have also appointed Claire Morris as our Thrive Coordinator which completes our comprehensive therapy offer at school

Training

The Speech and language Team continue to run their 'bite size' Tuesday communication sessions. These are very successful and well attended. Every Monday we will have a 20 minute session on RWI as we map out student groupings and progress against reading targets.

Premises and Finance

Please see Brenda's report.

We will now receive an extra ~~£80,000~~ £125,000 this year from the local authority to support outreach work and LA panel decisions with the SLA.

Health

I have met with Zulkifl Ahmed, the SEN Service Manager to discuss Occupational Therapy (OT) requirements at Oaktree School and the ASD units and Peter Nathan has agreed to the school being funded for 3 days per week support this year. However we have to find our own OT as the local NHS is unable to recruit any OT's at present. ~~We still do not have cover for our speech and language therapist who is on maternity leave.~~ We now have cover for our SALT on mat leave with the excellent Sophie now working at Oaktree School for 5 days a week supported by Irene and Helen

HR

We continue to have ~~2~~ 1 member of staff off on long term sick. We hope to have the situation resolved by the end of October. Claire Morris is now our new Thrive lead and coordinator.

Pupil Premium

See Louis's report

Attendance

Please see Louis's report

Safeguarding

- Number of Children Looked After: 4
- Child Protection (Safeguarding) referrals to social care: 0
- Allegations against staff reported to the Lead Officer for Child Protection: 0
- Reported racial Incidents: 0
- Reported serious bullying Incidents: 0
- Any significant safeguarding issue, whether to do with sexual behaviours, radicalisation or any other form of threat or risk to young people: 0
- Exclusions both permanent and fixed term: One student has been excluded for 3 days for threatening a member of staff. It is still not clear whether he will return to school unless he relents on threatening to harm the member of staff
- Peer on peer abuse: 0

We have one student whose placement has broken down after many years (she will not be returning to her existing placement. The student is at hospital at the moment, detained under Section 136 of the Mental Health Act. This now ongoing.

One student has been seriously ill in hospital but is now slowly recovering. The class and other classes have sent cards and the child had been in contact with their class mates through Google Meet.