

Westbourne Academy

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WESTBOURNE
ACADEMY

Principal - Mr Garry Trott

Our ref: GTR/EPE

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Dear Parents

We hope this letter finds you well. We are half way through the first half term and we are pleased with the way in which Year 7 are settling into high school. We have had lots of interest from parents looking to transfer their children to Westbourne Academy, which is excellent and we extend a warm welcome to our new students and their families.

GCSE Results 2017

As you are hopefully aware, the academy enjoyed its best GCSE results and progress this summer with 58% of the cohort achieving a grade 4-9 in English and mathematics. We are pleased to announce that the provisional national progress figures from the Department for Education (DfE) show the 2017 results for Westbourne Academy are a significant improvement on previous years. This is indeed good news and we will share the detail with you when this analysis becomes official.

Open Evening 2017

Last Thursday we had a very successful Open Evening for prospective new students from Year 6 primary schools. Support from our students acting as subject helpers and guides was fantastic and they were great ambassadors for the academy.

Teacher Professional Development

Our aim is for all teachers to be as good as the best. Through sharing our outstanding practice, teachers can reflect, amend and trial new and creative teaching, learning and assessment techniques. This will ensure the very best outcomes for all students and forms part of our rapid improvement programme for the academy. In lessons this term, we are introducing the use of an innovative professional development tool called IRIS Connect. IRIS is a secure video system which captures lessons in an unobtrusive way. Please be assured that the lesson recordings are only available within the academy for specific professional development purposes; they cannot be downloaded, copied or shared outside of the academy's IT systems.

Academy Finances

You will have no doubt read in the national and local press that schools are facing significant funding challenges in the coming years. Westbourne is no different in the financial pressures it is facing in the future. We hope that the new National Funding Formula will address the fact that students in Suffolk have not had the same money spent on their education compared to other counties.

Costs to schools continue to rise, the same as they do in the commercial world. Inflation is running at 2.9%. Schools now have to pay an Apprenticeship Levy and an Educational Services Grant to support the work of schools; the services provided to schools by the Local Authority are no longer fully funded. Additional pension, national insurance and salary costs that school budgets must pay for are unfunded. The Independent Institute of Fiscal Studies states that in spite of the £1.3 billion provided to UK schools in the DfE's funding formula statement, overall school budgets have/will decline by 4.6% in real terms during the financial period 2015 – 2020.

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At Westbourne Academy we have enrolled lots of new students in the past six months, which is good news. Whilst this will help increase our revenue in future years, at the moment we are facing an in-year deficit of (£277,140).

This week we launched a consultation to explore ways in which we can reduce this deficit figure. The range of measures include possibly reducing working hours for some staff and some redundancies. These consultations are never easy but you can rest assured that we will be working hard with our staff, governors and the unions to secure a plan that ensures that the academy continues to improve in terms of results, quality of teaching and students' welfare and development.

We will share the results of the consultation with you at the start of November. May I take this opportunity to thank you for your support of the academy. In the meantime, if you have any concerns that you wish to share with me, please do contact me by phone or email.

Yours sincerely



Mr G Trott
Principal

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This is a letter about important school information.

If you are unable to read this information because English is not your first language, please ask someone who speaks English to contact the school on 01473 742315 or email office@westbourne.attrust.org.uk

Lietuvių kalba/Lithuanian - Informacija/General information

Tai laiškas apie svarbią mokyklos informaciją. Jei negalite perskaityti šios informacijos, nes anglų nėra jūsų gimtoji kalba, kreipkitės į ką nors, kas kalba angliškai arba kreipkitės į mokyklą 01473 742315 arba el office@westbourne.attrust.org.uk

Polski/Polish - Informacja/information

Jest to pismo o ważnych informacjach o szkole. Jeśli nie możesz przeczytać tej informacji, ponieważ angielski nie jest twoim pierwszym językiem, poproś kogoś, kto mówi po angielsku, lub skontaktuj się ze szkołą 01473 742315 lub e-mail office@westbourne.attrust.org.uk

Em português /Portuguese - Informações/information

Esta é uma carta sobre informações importantes sobre a escola. Se você é incapaz de ler esta informação, porque o Inglês não é sua língua nativa, por favor, pergunte a alguém que fala Inglês deve contactar a escola 01473 742315 ou e-mail office@westbourne.attrust.org.uk

Limba română/Romanian - Informații/ General information letter

Aceasta este o scrisoare cu privire la informații importante școlare. Dacă nu puteți citi această informație pentru că engleza nu este prima limbă, vă rugăm să întrebați pe cineva care vorbește limba engleză trebuie să contacteze școala 01473 742315 sau e-mail office@westbourne.attrust.org.uk