



Dear parent,

As members of The Centre School Local Education Consultative Committee, we wanted to take this opportunity to celebrate the school's continued improvement/success over the last year and to give you more information about our work.

As part of the Astrea Academy Trust, the school has a dedicated local committee. You can find out more about us and our work on the school's website.

It is fair to say that The Centre School is a unique provision for students aged 11-19, offering a curriculum to ensure that life chances are enhanced for all students. Progression, either within our own Sixth Form, or with other providers, is a priority for the school.



The Centre School offers a positive educational experience that cultivates high self-esteem and ensures that all members of the school community can take advantage of both learning, and leisure opportunities to make good progress and prepare them for the next stage of life.

Kathy Notley is the Chair to The Centre School local committee, who along with six committee members, hold the Principal to account to ensure the cultivation of high standards, expectations and aspirations are demonstrated by the school.

This year, committee members identified that Centre School policies should be tailored to suit its unique arrangements relevant to its day to day procedures, whilst complimenting Trust policies.

Despite COVID restrictions preventing committee members visiting the school, in November 2020, Pri Pinnaduwa, the committee's link lead for Behaviour, was able to carry out a visit to observe behaviour at The Centre School. Pri reported that staff seem to genuinely care about pupils' behaviour and wellbeing and that incidents were being logged consistently and appropriately. The committee were pleased to hear that pupils were incentivised to behave well and strategies are having a measurable impact.

In January 2021, the committee were presented with details of student progress regarding reading and spelling, and reviewed the quality of support provided by The Centre School. The committee were pleased to see that school are already working in line with the Trusts Literacy strategy recently launched.

In holding school leaders to account for the educational performance of the school, the inclusion of all pupils and the offer of a skills based curriculum the committee have scrutinised and challenged information presented in The Centre School Key Reporting booklet, which included student destinations and outcomes for all cohorts.



In support of ensuring committee members strength and development, members have taken part in Child Protection/Safeguarding/Prevent training and governance webinars. The Chair, Kathy Notley, has attended Chair briefings with other Chairs in the Trust, and reported back to the committee regarding the implementation of the Trusts objectives.

In addition, Kathy Notley, committee link lead for Safeguarding and committee members have been given a clear understanding of how effective safeguarding is within the school, through regular reports from the Principal. An internal safeguarding audit was carried out in March 2021 and an external safeguarding audit took place in May 2021.

In March 2021, the committee invited Ivor de Sousa, an Educational and Leadership Consultant to present the work he has undertaken with Centre School staff, who have had the opportunity to work with him to focus on what is important to them and address challenges they may face in their school role. Staff work within a program of coaching sessions, which involve reflection, strategies, action plans to which timelines can be set and encouragement to seek solutions are identified. The committee were pleased to hear of strategies supporting staff with their mental health and wellbeing and recognised the value that a happy workforce has on the environment for all in the school.

We had hoped to hold our annual Open Evening, to invite parents and members of the community along to join us for a BBQ and have the opportunity to visit this unique setting, but sadly it was cancelled due to COVID restrictions. We do, however look forward to inviting you along next year!

In March 2021 Martin Gerrard-Croxon informed the committee of his fundraising work with the Trusts fundraising lead, Fran Lightfoot and was delighted to report The Centre School received funding as follows:

- £1,730 for a sensory room at The Centre School from Redhill
- £8,245 for a sensory floor in The Centre School's mobile classroom from Eastern Counties Education
- £2,942 for the purchase of fishing gear for The Centre School students to use in the curriculum lessons from The Angling Trust
- £1,790 for the purchase of five mountain bikes for students from Blue Spa



The committee were pleased to see that pupils had been supported during the lockdown periods caused by COVID. The committee acknowledged how staff had visited students at home with a view to safeguarding vulnerable students. This enabled the committee an insight as to how school policies have been put into practice and will enable them to review policies with a level of understanding, unique to The Centre School cohort.

In September 2020, the committee received a presentation regarding 'trauma informed schools', further facilitating understanding of the challenges staff face in the unique environment of the school.

It is fair to say that it has been an unprecedented year for all education settings, but as The Centre Schools committee, we are proud of both our achievements, and that of the school's achievements which have reinforced its resilience in dealing with challenges the school, staff and students have faced.

The committee would like to leave you with the following statement to conclude this year's report and look forward to supporting The Centre School in the next academic year.

*A 'trauma informed' school has many facets, but over the past year or so, the one that has been most important for all of us at The Centre School is the one that transforms the world from a harsh and desolate place to a warm, kind place.*

*We have all had so many positive experiences that have led us to gain enduring relationships that are fundamentally nurturing.*

*Sue Raven, Principal*