



Glenwood School

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Dear Parents and Carers,

As the end of the Summer term draws close, I wanted to share with you some achievements and plans for the new academic year.

Firstly I would like to thank you for all your co-operation and understanding during the heat wave this week and for working with the school to ensure that the children, young people and staff have been safe in this hot heat. I will be looking into how we can mitigate further and make the school ready for events like this in the future.

Thank you to all of you who attended parents evening, I understand that some of you may have just had annual reviews recently and so were already informed of your young person's progress.

When I joined the school in April, I wrote to you to set out plans for the school. We have begun to implement some of these plans, thanks to the dedicated staff in school and have achieved a lot. Initial priorities were creating stability, home school communication, curriculum and assessment.

We have had a really positive half term, including the Deputy Mayors visit who came to meet our young people. The school has been involved in a project for a new accessible playground and Glenwood's young people have been painting pebbles which will be a feature in the new play area. There will be an opening of this, we will invite all parents and more details will follow.

The Mencap awards were held before the half term break, it was great to see our young people win awards and be recognised for the achievements and progress they make.

We now have the keys for our new post 16 building! We will have a formal opening organised by Morgan Sindall next week. The plan will be to invite parents and carers, whose young people will be transitioning to the new building in September in a few weeks' time, so you can see the amazing space we have. We will carefully organise transition visits for the young people, allowing them to familiarise themselves with their new learning environments.

This term we have also been working on developing our new Equals curriculum. I wanted to thank all of our TLRs, teachers, Head of Teaching and Learning and SLT for driving this. We have been looking at our learning environments and ensuring that they are enabling for young people and that classrooms are inviting and clearly defined in terms of the physical layout. We will invite all parents and carers into school, early on in the Autumn term, to share with you information on the new curriculum and hopefully show you it in action! We are still in the early implementation stages, but already we have seen the benefits.

Assessment is a priority and following the survey around home school communication we are looking at a new system which tracks progress of all our learners across many subject areas and personal progress which can be linked to their annual targets. We want to be able to baseline young people and identify starting points and progress against their learning. The system will allow us to communicate with you via messages, and share photos and videos of the learning happening in school. We will implement this over the Autumn term and keep you informed of how it will work.

Behaviour has been another focus and we will implement a new positive behaviour management approach in Autumn. The approach focuses heavily on de-escalation strategies and develops staff understanding that all behaviour is communication. It is a proactive approach and I would like to involve all parents in the process where we feel a behaviour support plan is needed. This training does extend for families and we will work with you to ensure that we are consistent in our approach for all of our young people.

Training and development of staff and pedagogical knowledge has the highest impact of learner outcomes and we recognise that we have very skilled staff at Glenwood. We are investing in staff who want to progress into teaching and those who want to upskill their knowledge. I am proud to say we are the first Essex school to join the London East Teacher Training alliance (LETTA). This will support the school to invest in staff, which will have an impact on all children and young people. Huge congratulations to Lauren who has completed her final Early careers teacher (Year 2) and Hayley for achieving her initial teacher training.

We have had some new learners accessing the Glen Residential who have adapted and transitioned really well. This is a positive provision allowing students to develop their independence and daily living skills preparing them for adulthood.

There has been some very positive work between families and our two new family liaison officers, please do get in touch should you need any support or have any questions.

We have now completed the class groups for next year, we will share with you early next week, your young person's class teacher. We will ensure that transition work happens and that all essential information and plans are passed on to the new teacher, should they move class. This will enable us to have a smooth transition and allow learners to process the change.

Glenwood is a fantastic school and I want to thank parents and carers, staff and most of all the children for making this summer term so enjoyable. We will continue to drive improvement and ensure that the learners receive high quality education and that they are prepared for their next transition throughout their time here.

Warm Regards,



Amanda Lambert