



April 2022

This academic year the Academy Committee and staff have been pleased to welcome back all students to a full year of schooling. Sadly due to significant cases of staff absence linked to Covid-19 there have been days when students have been asked to work from home. The laptops which were kindly donated to the school during the earlier period of lockdown have been issued to students without access to a device from home and this has supported learning so we extend our thanks once again to the local parish councils for these kind donations.

Our students have mostly adjusted well and are enjoying the return to learning but we have seen some families and young people significantly impacted by the series of lockdowns during the pandemic. Anxiety about attending school and the virus has been one feature and a greater number of students are experiencing issues with their mental health. Sadly, we have all read of increased instances of domestic violence in families and some of our students have also been affected by this. As a school we have increased counselling provision in school but are worried by the lack of timely access to local services for mental health and wellbeing, especially for teenagers. We have raised this through various channels available to us but feel sadly that this issue will be with us for some time to come.

Finally, I am pleased to report that despite the limitations of a Covid safe Open Evening, we continue to be over subscribed for Year 7 entry. Sadly this does mean that on this occasion some children from some of our main feeder catchment primary schools have not been offered a place. We are in contact with the local authority about local housing developments and the pressure this is placing upon school places. We are sure that colleagues in local parish councils are doing the same and we thank you for the support that offers to us, our children and families, current and future.

If anyone wishes to visit the school or raise any issues with us directly, please contact the school.

Ms Maéve Taylor  
Headteacher

'Be the best you can be'