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Dear Parents & Carers

It is no exaggeration to say that this term has been extraordinary.

Across the two schools: Wreake Valley Academy including Bradgate Sixth Form & The Roundhill Academy, we have welcomed new cohorts of students alongside a big intake of new teaching staff. This has been exciting and led to a feeling of momentum on both sites.

The messaging from the press and from government is about a return to normal but I have to say that in my experience this has been one of the toughest half terms to manage. The teaching and learning has been great but it has taken a huge amount of collective energy to maintain a sense of normality whilst working through the next phase of the pandemic.

Nationally attendance is below 90% in secondary schools this term and I have been pleased that we have managed to sit between 92% and 94% despite two fairly significant waves of local transmission. We couldn't do this without the support of parents and the local community and we are extremely grateful for that.

As the two schools continue to increase their collaboration, we held the first meeting of the newly formed joint Local Advisory Board (previously known as a Governing Board) last week. Governors voted in a new chair person: Carol Chambers is an experienced leader in education, having previously been a Director of Children's Services. We currently have two vacancies on the Local Advisory Board for parent governors. We will be writing to you separately with the details about this, please do give it some thought if you feel this may be something that you would like to be involved with.

At a very practical level the collaboration between the two schools has allowed us to work together on the delivery of Design and Technology lessons (based at the Wreake Valley site) and it has also allowed our sports teams to have a regular schedule of fixtures and festivals. Some highlights of these fixtures have been the unbeaten start to the year for the Year 10 netballers from Roundhill who have won two tournaments already and the ongoing competitiveness in all year groups between our own two schools. In addition, it has been great to get to see a full return to the extra curricular programmes across both schools. These have included Performing Arts, public speaking, Art, Food and Nutrition and a host of other curriculum based offerings.



Working Together Achieving More

In both schools we expect a visit from Ofsted this term and look forward to showing off our students. The link below is a chance for parents to leave feedback in an official format, it takes 5 minutes to complete but we would really appreciate you taking the time to submit this.

<https://parentview.ofsted.gov.uk/>

As you will already be aware we are asking all students to take Lateral Flow Tests on the 3 days prior to returning to school after half term, this will help us to pick up any asymptomatic cases before we return. Results from each of the 3 tests need to be submitted to the school using the links below. If you missed the letter with the full details this can be found on our website.

[Friday 22nd October – click here to submit your child’s result for Friday 22nd October](#)

[Saturday 23rd October – click here to submit your child’s result for Saturday 23rd October](#)

[Sunday 24th October – click here to submit your child’s result for Sunday 24th October](#)

The Autumn term up until Christmas is likely to be a challenging one with Covid still around and we appreciate your continued support with our testing regime to keep students and staff as safe as we can.

We wish you all an enjoyable half term.

Kind regards

Tim Marston
Headteacher