



Headteacher's Report to the Governing Body – January 2023

1. Headteacher's Summary

National Education Union (NEU) planned strike action

Proposed strike action for member teachers on the 1/2/23, 2/3/23, 15/3/23, 16/3/23. At this point I am unsure of the numbers of teachers that this will affect.

School Improvement Partner visit

Joint discussion with D. Denman and Lampard School 23/1/23.

School visit booked for 6/2/23.

0-25 TEAM and the Local Authority

No further information from Devon County Council on the Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND) Improvement Plan yet.

Consultations/ Places

27 Consultations have come into school for Yr7/8 places in September –

11 of 26 these are currently on roll and can move to our secondary department (1 is being considered by Lampard)

3 are for main site (1-2 places could be available)

13 are for Pathways (5 places available) (1 tribunal planned for a Yr7 consulted on last year and 1 possible)

Meeting with 0-25 team to discuss Yr 7/8 Placements 17/1/23

3 consultations for R/Yr1

14 pupils R/Yr 1 are known to school through visits and Little Explorers (9 places available).

Meeting with 0-25 team to discuss R/Yr1 Placements 9/2/23 - These placements are often based on the first Education Health Care Plan (EHCP) so can come through at different points during the year. There is a backlog in Devon of EHCPs to process.

2. School Data

Pupils on roll-

188 on roll – (Planned places are for 186) - Two students left in the Autumn term, and one has left at the beginning of the spring term.

2023/24 - **193** current pupils - 4 Yr11, 5 Yr 14 leavers + 9 R/Yr1, 5 Yr7 (Pathways)

Attendance –

87.5% last report - 83.39 % overall this school year.

Pupils of Statutory School Age 85% (not including Post 16 (21 pupils)).

The average across Devon for last half term for pupils with an EHCP was 86%. The majority of pupils with an EHCP are in mainstream settings. National Attendance Data for the academic year up until Jan for state funded special schools is 86.5%.

There has been a drop again in attendance following what had been a steadily improving picture at the start of half term 2. This appears to be due to a couple of reasons. The icy conditions in December meant that the majority of buses didn't run for a least two days with students also off for longer periods. When the buses weren't running the school had about 30% of students in school.

Illness impacted greatly on attendance through December. There was a surge in Flu, COVID and Strep A infections alongside sickness bugs. There haven't been many students or staff that haven't been affected by this.

Attainment-

Pupil progress meetings are scheduled for the week beginning the 20th March. This will allow teachers time to implement the new Personal Learning Goal (PLG) schema for the spring term. This will RAG rate progress on the PLGs over the term and inform if they are updated for the beginning of the next term. The pupil progress meetings will also consider evidence gathered and the use of any specific interventions.

3. School Development Plan

Maths training delivered around the *Maths for Life* programme was very well received and of very good quality. This training had been identified and arranged by HB as part of her TLR project this year and was an objective on the school development plan. Additional follow up training is being arranged for the June inset day.

OFSTED Inspection for senior leaders' resource ordered - SLT to look through the resource on the Friday 3rd Feb. This can then be cascaded to Department Leads. Depending on the quality of this resource future deep dive training for core subjects may also be purchased.

I'm attending the SWALSS special heads conference on the 19th and 20th Jan. The deputies have been given the opportunity to attend the SWALSS deputy conference.

PB and AM are visiting Bidwell Brook School to look at their PSHE provision in February.

4. Quality of Education - Teaching and learning

Curriculum Development-

Maths training whole school and specialist coaching for Pathways TAs.

Equals training for Keystage 4 and Post 16. KS 4 have now chosen the modules that they will be teaching and included this in their curriculum offer. P16 are strengthening their curriculum by defining the equals units that students' progress to.

Medium term planning being monitored by Deputy Head, Department Leads and KS2 and KS4 Teaching and Learning Responsibilities (TLR).

Jigsaw training for key staff. Good links were made with another SEND school that had adapted the resource.

5. Staffing

Recruitment and Appointments-

The Finance Officer role is now filled.

The advert is out for the Administration Assistant position. This role will be more general admin support including supporting with managing staff absence paperwork.

A Kitchen Assistant has left and a new one appointed.

Four TAs were recruited on the last day of the Autumn term. One has started as has one from the previous recruitment round.

The teacher maternity leave starting at February Half Term has been filled by an internal appointment – a staff member working as a Grade D TA but who is also a qualified teacher was successful in their application. One of the four new appointments will be used to back fill the TA position.

The teacher appointed for class T3 informed us the day before they were due to start that they wouldn't be joining us because of personal reasons. Fortunately, this can be covered by the HLTA who was already leading in this class. We are considering this role at the moment, as a recruitment may be better for a September start.

Following JC's move this term from Communication Assistant to class teacher we still have an outstanding vacancy for the communication role.

The supply teacher in class B2 successfully completed their Newly Qualified Teacher status and has finished their period of work with us.

Mental Health-

Mental health issues continue to be raised by staff often stemming from issues outside of school. We ran a wellbeing meeting for staff in December which was very well received with a number of different activities for staff to take part in. We have another one of these meetings planned for the end of this term.

Children's mental health week is the 6th-10th February. We will be running an arts based activity week producing a collaborative and shared piece of work based on the story The Invisible String. There will also be opportunities for some classes to have specialist dance sessions. Some classes may invite parents to join in with their art session during the week. As always Governors are welcome to book in to join any of these sessions.

6. Safeguarding

Level 2 Safeguarding Training for all staff was completed on the first day of term through Devon Education Services.

7. Resources- Finance, Premises/ Health and Safety

I spoke with the corporate buildings section of Devon County Council about the Discovery Centre at the end of last term. They have come back to say that they have no suitable buildings available in North Devon for the Pathways group. I will continue to explore options for this as opportunities arise.