



Larwood Academy Trust

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Larwood School

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Friday, June 18th, 2021

Dear Parents and Carers

The term continues to fly by, and it has certainly been a busy one! I have summarised below.

Year 11 students

All our Year 11s have completed their courses and their final grades were submitted to exam boards today. We wish them every success for the future and hope they can attend our Prizes and Awards event on Tuesday 20th July.

Virtual Review by Challenge Partners.

In normal circumstances, this type of event would have equated to three/four colleagues visiting the school, going into lessons, and having a range of conversations with staff. As you would expect, this had to be planned for in September, and at that stage with so many unknowns relating to the pandemic, I opted for a virtual review.

Please note that Challenge Partners describe themselves as follows: 'We work with schools across the country, sharing excellent practice, facilitating peer review and running programmes grounded in evidence of what works, so that all pupils can benefit from the combined wisdom of the system, and of other sectors.' Therefore, due to pandemic and the need to allocate a virtual consultancy review, this equated to:

- Three reviewers – The Lead being Martin Bertulis, ex Headteacher and Ofsted Inspector and two senior Leaders from similar schools attending a series of events over three days with us.
- In depth meetings to explore leadership, behaviour, and curriculum.
- Meetings with nine staff and the CEO of the Trust
- Meetings with parents
- Meetings with students
- Scrutiny of a range of documents including the School Development Plan and Self Evaluation documents.

The formal report identifies, what is working well and 'even better ifs.' This is the same format that we review lessons when we observe them. The process was challenging and helpful and represents a set of 'external eyes', helping us to review our progress and direction.

The report is extremely positive and can be read in full on the Website under the Ofsted banner.

New builds

The foundations for the new music room are being laid on Friday so hopefully the room will be completed over the next few weeks.

All planning permission for the new classroom block of two classrooms next to the gym has been agreed and the construction will be starting shortly.

Prizes and Awards Event

Unfortunately, after Boris's announcement we have been informed that we cannot hold a large-scale presentation day as we had first planned. This will not stop us, however. It is so important that we celebrate our students' achievements and say goodbye properly to our Year 11s.

We are still planning to have an outside speaker, live music, and plenty of awards to present, but we will have to restrict the live audience to students and staff. We are planning to stream the event live so that parents can watch it in real time, with the students being able to see their parents/carers faces on a screen like they did with the Zoom audience on Britain's Got Talent.

Have a lovely weekend despite the weather.

Yours sincerely



David