Message from Ms S Davidson, Principal

We couldn’t do it without you………

I would like to start this newsletter with a huge thank you to students, staff, carers and parents! During this term, I have been visiting classes, observing lessons, looking in books, and have been extremely impressed with the commitment of students in their lessons, the hard work of our staff and the encouragement of parents, supporting homework and attending consultation evenings. Thank you so much! I know I say it a lot, but there is nothing more important than us all working together and the support of parents/carers is key. Recent research shows that until the age of 16, parents/carers are more influential than any school in affecting a child’s academic success and have the biggest influence over their child’s linguistic and emotional development. Whilst there is no doubt that school is incredibly important, a clutch of recent studies also reminds us of the vital role that parents/carers play in their child’s development. Therefore, I would like to take this opportunity to say ‘thank you’ for doing such a fabulous job and supporting your children so well!

Gathering our students’ views is also an important matter for us here at Carter, which is why we have regular Student Council meetings and Student Voice interviews. Most recently, students in Years 7-10 took part in the annual United Learning student survey. All schools within United Learning take part in this survey, with the results sent back to schools to analyse and create action plans.

I was thrilled with the results of this year’s survey, as it demonstrates that our students are ambitious, well rounded learners, who feel safe within our school. Some of the highlights of the survey are:

- 97% of students recognise that doing well in GCSEs will be important to their future;
- 96% of students believe that their teachers expect them to be successful;
- 96% of students recognised that working hard at school is important for what they want to do in the future.

These results really validate all of the work we have been doing across the school, aligned to our mantra - ‘expect the best’.
Rank Order of Assessment

The feedback so far has been very pleasing for the launch of Rank Order of Assessment, which involves the ordering of student results from top to bottom, allowing them to see their position within the year group. We have now successfully completed the first round of assessments, with students responding positively to the new initiative – they have been seen huddled around the boards as each set of results has been released, year group by year group. Parents have also said that they have found the results clearer and much easier to understand. Students moving up have been celebrated in school assemblies and the next round of assessments are due in the summer. Further information to be issued to parents and students soon.

GCSE Time Again!

Once again, the build up to GCSEs has started and our Year 11 students have shown real determination and dedication to their studies. The mock exam period has just finished, and students have attended two weeks of extra revision sessions during the mornings and evenings. Early indications from the mock results show that the effort from students and staff has been extremely worthwhile.

Future Aspirations

In the world of careers, Miss Turner is working hard to ensure that Carter delivers all of the Gatsby benchmarks by the end of the year. This year’s Careers Fair was the biggest and best so far, with over 26 providers in attendance and great feedback from attendees. A big thanks to all involved and we look forward to next year being even better!
How teaching and learning is supported by our Governors

As a member of the Senior Leadership Team (SLT), I regularly attend committee and board meetings to update governors on the work being carried out by the teachers and support staff, ensuring that all of our students achieve the best in everything they do.

The governors also visit Carter during the working day as often as they can, to see the school in action, enabling them to talk to staff and students and see first hand what happens in the classroom. They attend departmental meetings, join in with professional development training courses, take part in departmental reviews and ‘work scrutiny’ exercises - all of which deepen their knowledge and understanding of the school.

Governors also join me for ‘Learning Walks’ around school. These allow them to visit a number of classrooms to see a variety of subjects being taught to different year groups. The discussions we have during our walks shows the strategies and interventions used by staff to engage our students and help make the best possible progress in lessons. The governors are always impressed with the enthusiasm, hard work and determination shown by staff and students alike and we thank them for taking an active role in making Carter’s continuing success!

Are you using Arbor Parent Portal yet?

Please remember that the Arbor Parent Portal is available for all parents to access. If you have not logged on yet, you are missing out on access to your child’s student profile which includes attendance, merits, behaviour points and it also allows you to book your parent consultation evening appointments. If you have lost your log in or would like to use this resource please email enquiries@carter.poole.sch.uk or call 01202 676789 with your child’s name and our Parent Portal Team will contact you.
Education with Character

As part of the United Learning group of schools and academies, Carter Community School not only focuses on academic success, but believes that there is more to an excellent education than solely exam grades. We therefore aim to develop character, compassion and service in our pupils, something we call, #EducationwithCharacter. In direct support of this, last autumn saw the school launch the Education with Character Passport. This is based around the school’s six ‘pillars’ of learning – enthusiasm, ambition, determination, respect, creativity and confidence. Students across all year groups are tasked with completing activities linked to these pillars, and in turn their passport is stamped. This helps them to graduate from the initial Bronze Award, all the way through to Platinum, resulting in the final accolade of ‘Star Student.’ Since the scheme’s inception in September, we have presented 31 Bronze and 7 Silver awards.

Carter Cream Teas

Also in support of the Education with Character Passport scheme, we are giving our students the opportunity to gain evidence for their passports by raising money through hosting a cream tea event for guests of their choice. Held at the school on Wednesday 8th May 1.30pm, this event will see students provide guests with a tour of the school, as well as serving refreshments. The event is optional and students will need to fundraise for each guest they bring along, although there is no charge for children. The fundraising can be carried out either inside or outside of school. Participating students do not need to pay for themselves, but each guest place costs £4. This is an opportunity for those taking part in the scheme to apply some creativity and determination and provides evidence for their passports. All monies need to be in school by May 3rd. We look forward to seeing you at this event and thank you in advance for supporting your child with this initiative.

Attendance is important

At Carter, we expect, at the very least, 95% attendance for the whole school year. Did you know that if you miss one day every two weeks (which is 19 days in a school year), you will only achieve 90%. Evidence to says that this equates to a drop of at least one GCSE grade! A recent Department of Education report showed that 73% of students who have over 95% attendance achieve five or more GCSEs at grades A*-C (grades 9-4) and this explains why students with persistent absences, especially those with 90% or below are less likely to attain at school. Attendance really does impact on your results!
Robotic Engineering Challenge

In December, students across all year groups completed their first round of rank order assessments. This was the first time students had been rank ordered on subject assessments and it was an exciting reveal when the rank orders were published in February, with students eager to find out where they were placed in their respective year groups. The Science department used the rank ordering for Year 8 as an opportunity to reward the highest performing students with a STEM robotic engineering event, led by Bournemouth University. The top 30 Year 8 students were also invited to spend a day with university students, experiencing robotic engineering and looking at how robotics are used in industry. During the visit, they were also challenged to build and code Lego robots to complete a variety of challenges. Students competed for points, with prizes awarded to those with the most. Overall, all involved had a fantastic day, with the visit helping open them up to new career paths, which hopefully some will consider in the future.

Seneca Learning

Carter has been actively seeking different ways to improve revision techniques for students, particularly in Year 11, helping to prepare students for their exams. Seneca Learning is a free online revision tool which the school is using for different year groups across subjects. As such, the school entered a Seneca competition, which saw schools across the country competing to see which clocked up the most revision hours. Carter was proud to achieve an average of 132 learning hours across a week, evidencing that students are taking their revision seriously and helping us to make it through to Round 4 of the competition. Our students continue to use Seneca Learning to revise, which has had a positive impact on the recent mock exams.
Expansion Works

Work is continuing on our multi-million pound expansion. The footings are in and the steel framework for the new Drama and Technology Block is starting to take shape. Everyone at school is very excited at the progress and are looking forward to this new stage in Carter’s history.

Charitable Carter

We are very lucky at Carter to have an excellent Student Council who fundraise for charities during the year. Since September, the students have raised in excess of £900 for Red Nose Day, Children in Need, The British Heart Foundation and Macmillan Cancer Support. Well done!

Ski Trip Easter 2020

Does your child want to have the experience of a lifetime? There are still places available for the ski trip to Italy in 2020. We will spend a week learning, improving and mastering the skills of skiing and immersing ourselves in Italian culture. To request additional information please email enquiries@carter.poole.sch.uk.

Have you ever thought about hiring one of our facilities?

Are you a member of a local group or organisation? Did you know that you can lease the 3G football pitch, a classroom, conference room, dance studio, dining hall, drama room, main hall, playing field or sports hall? We offer very competitive rates and all are bookable through our website schoolhire.co.uk/poole/carter-community-school
Mrs C Wicks — Chair of Governors

Message from the Chair of Governors

A farewell and thank you....

This term has seen us bid farewell to Denise Jenkins, the Clerk to the Governing Body. Denise has been associated with Carter Community School for many years, serving as Clerk since 1997. However, not everyone realises that Denise was also a student at Carter – she even met her husband (then a fellow Carter student) at the school! However, with the increased workload from her husband’s business, and with the arrival of her first grandchild, the time has come for her to step down from her role as Clerk, to spend some well deserved ‘me’ time. Denise will be very much missed at Governors’ meetings – her advice and support have been invaluable! The combination of her skills and experience in her role as Clerk, along with her extraordinary empathy for Carter and all those involved with the school, have made Denise an important part of Carter’s Governing Body. Carter’s loss will very much be her family’s gain! We wish her all the best in ‘life after governance.’

....and welcome

I am delighted to welcome James Denmead as our newly appointed Clerk to the Governing Body. James has a Master’s Degree in Librarianship and has worked in a variety of central government departments during his working life. All of these roles had a strong customer service focus and he has always enjoyed helping people with their information requests. James moved to Poole a few years ago and joined Carter in January as an Exam Invigilator. A few weeks later, James was also successful in his application to become our Clerk! With his wealth of experience, he is very much looking forward to sharing his expertise and knowledge with the Governing Body and we are delighted to welcome James to our team.
Prospective parents/carers of all year groups are invited to attend one of our coffee mornings. Please join us for a school tour commencing at 9.15am followed by refreshments on:

- Thursday 25th April 2019
- Wednesday 1st May 2019
- Wednesday 8th May 2019
- Tuesday 14th May 2019
- Wednesday 22nd May 2019

As these are popular events booking is suggested via enquiries@carter.poole.sch.uk or by calling 01202 676789.

For more information visit www.carter.poole.sch.uk