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Dear Parents and Carers,

It has been extremely pleasing to observe all students settling back in to their 'more normal' school routines. The teachers are busy planning some extra curricula activities that we are able to resume shortly. We have reserved some additional funds for summer activities and workshops that all of our students can benefit from within their curricula.

I am delighted to be able to share with you the outcome of our deputy head recruitment;

- Liz Chard (formerly Vaughan) is appointed as the deputy head teacher of the Sunflower Federation for September 2021 start.

Some of you may remember Liz, as a couple of years ago she worked as our acting deputy whilst establishing the leadership structure of the federation. Recently Liz has been working in Bradstow residential school in Kent. We welcome Liz's vast SEN leadership knowledge and experience to enhance our provisions. I know that she will be excited to meet with you in September.

As promised in my last letter I share an update about EMHT pilot within The Sunflower Federation:

- EMHT stands for 'Educational Mental Health Team'. This pilot is organised by NHS and funded by DfE.
- The EMHT will provide us with educational mental health practitioners who can work with individuals or groups; their support is available for students, parents and staff.
- The EMHT focuses on **overall wellbeing and early short interventions**.
- We are currently liaising with some identified families (students or parents) or staff members/groups to complete the requested referral process.
- The threshold to access the service is low. If you think that at the present time, you or your child may benefit from a short period of focused work with an educational mental health practitioner, please contact your child's class teacher, Darren or myself.

Another exciting initiative that our students will benefit from is the link with Highfurlong Special School in Blackpool to further develop use of IT within the federation.

- This programme is EdTech Developer Programme that is also funded by DfE and will last until the end of the next academic year.
- The core areas we will be focusing on are Augmentative and Alternative Communication (AAC), Inclusive Technology within curricula and use of technology in communication with parents/carers

We are building and extending on our experience and knowledge from using online platforms such as Edmodo or recently MS 365 Classrooms during the global pandemic.

In recent weeks, monitoring visits were carried out in both of our schools use of school's pupil premium (PP) funds. The feedback was positive stating *that 'School leaders show a clear desire and mind-set to do the best they can for all pupils, including PP pupils, reflecting their individual needs. A sound approach has been developed by the school for PP and related areas.'*

Lastly, please find attached our updated COVID-19 risk assessment.

Ramadan Mubarak and Happy May Bank Holiday Weekend!
Take care. Be safe.

Merja