



## Notes from our Virtual Coffee Morning March 2023



- The Headteacher gave an update around the impact that industrial action has had on the school, as well as nationally and locally. He informed parents that 29% of schools have only remained fully open in the South regions compared to 20% nationally. London

has been impacted the most by the strikes. He thanked the parents for their patience and support during this time as well as all the staff for being able to keep the school fully open.

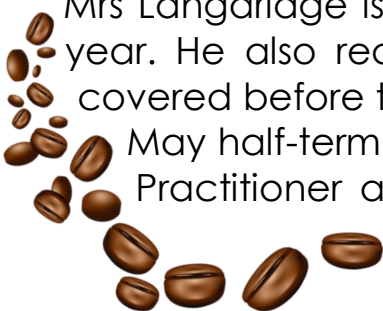
The HT informed parents that the unions are balloting members and the outcome will be announced during the Easter break. This could mean more industrial action in the Summer term and the HT stated that he will update parents/carers as soon as he has more information.

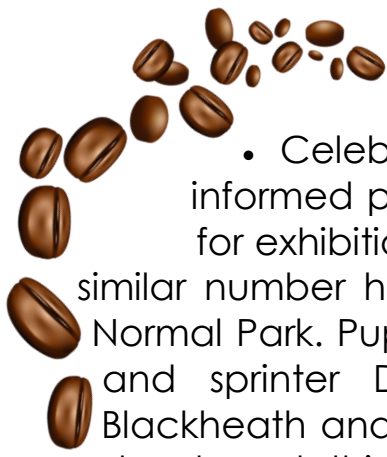


- Changes to the provisions were shared. The HT informed parents and carers that a new model has been put in place that links the Den to the Sixth form. He stated that this was important so there is a clearer pathway for our Den pupils when they enter in year 7 with the sixth form destination in mind. These changes will mean the pupils will have access to more opportunities and be better prepared for the transition. He shared that Mrs Bassett has left the school for promotion elsewhere and Miss Monk is the new Head of both Provisions.



- Staffing changes were shared, with Mrs Brown appointed to the position of Safeguarding and Inclusion manager, and Mrs Garratty taking on the Family Liaison Officer role. The HT also shared that the Head of English, Mrs Langdrige is leaving to go on maternity leave but will return next year. He also reassured parents/carers that all English lessons will be covered before the Interim Head of English, Miss Murray, starts after the May half-term. For those parents of year 11 pupils, he said that Lead Practitioner and experienced English teacher Miss Boulton will be taking Mrs Langdrige's lessons for the next six weeks.





- Celebratory events from the term were shared by the HT. He informed parents that 16 pupils have had their Art work selected for exhibition at the Royal College of Art in Kensington and that a similar number have completed a term long athletics programme at Normal Park. Pupils were presented with certificates by the GB athlete and sprinter Dina Asher-Smith and are now members of the Blackheath and Bromley Harriers Athletics club. In-school success was also shared, this included the recent STEM day (Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths) which was a hands on, practical day, where pupils learnt the skills and knowledge needed for forensic investigation, how to programme robotic Lego models as well as exploring the complicated chain reactions through Ruth Goldberg Machines. The HT went on to say that it is this curriculum offer that ensures that the school attendance remains high at 93%. He acknowledged that parents/carers are the ones that make this happen and he thanked them for making sure that their child/children seldom have time off school.

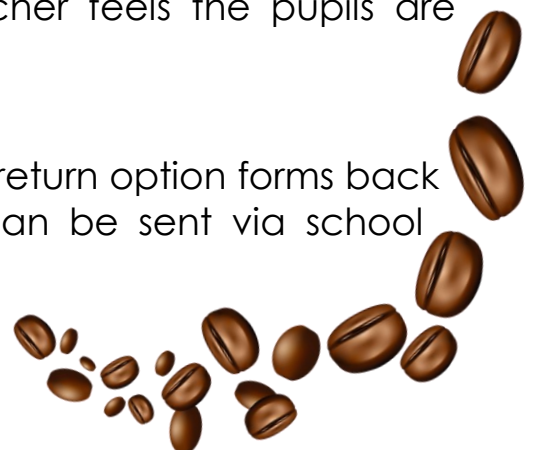


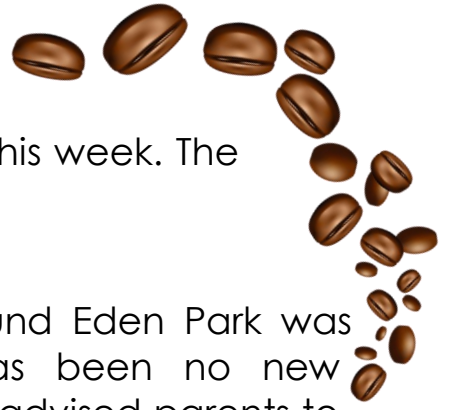
- The HT encouraged parents of Year 11 pupils to access the revision guides on the school website. He said that the information will be available by the end of Friday 31<sup>st</sup> March and will include a powerpoint with strategies and exam tips. He went on to say that each year the school has several pupils who struggle with severe anxiety during exams and he hopes that by using these strategies, pupils will be in a much better frame of mind during the exams. This information will also be available in the school newsletter.



- The HT confirmed that exam timetables for Year 11 pupils have been sent home. He also stressed that if there is not an exam on the timetable, this will mean that a pupil is entered for functional skills. In this case, tests are determined when the teacher feels the pupils are ready so there is no set date exam.

- Parent of year 9 pupils were encouraged to return option forms back to the school by Monday 17th April. This can be sent via school admin.





- Progress reports for this term have been posted this week. The HT stated that this should arrive to them soon.
- The concerning incidents about muggings around Eden Park was shared again by the HT. Although there has been no new information reported to the school about this, he advised parents to be vigilant in making sure pupils keep headphones and phones discreet when out and about to avoid unwanted attention. The HT stressed that many of our pupils do not yet have the self-awareness skills in these situations and therefore remain highly vulnerable.
- It was shared by the HT that the School has just been awarded Investors in People Gold Award. He said that this is a tremendous achievement which encapsulated how strong the school community is. He finally added that in the summer term, there will be another date set for the Numeracy Fete in which all parents/carers are invited to. A date will follow next term.
- The Headteacher thanked Mr Brown for his service to the school and in his role as data manager. Mr Brown is retiring at the end of the academic year.



**Next Meeting:  
To Be Confirmed**

