



14th December 2022

Dear Parent/Carer

Important update for Spring Term 2023

I am writing to notify you of some significant staffing changes for the Spring term which will result in some timetable changes for students in Years 7 to 10.

Mr & Mrs Burke - You may be aware that Mrs Burke is currently on maternity leave from her role as English Teacher here at Ely College. Unfortunately, she has recently received a medical diagnosis requiring her to undertake some treatment that will require her to need significant support at home. This means her husband, who is also employed with us as a Geography teacher, will need to take a period of absence from school.

This has been unexpected news and we have been spending time planning for appropriate cover for Mr Burke's lessons. Therefore, we are currently recruiting for an experienced subject specialist to support the Geography department for the remainder of this academic year.

Mr and Mrs Burke have consented for me to share this news with you, and I am sure you will join me in wishing them both best wishes for successful treatment.

Thank you for your patience and understanding during this difficult time for the Burke family. If you require any further information or clarification on the impact for your child's lessons, please contact either:

- Mr Coe – Assistant Principal and Head of Etheldreda House: jcoe@elycollege.co.uk
- Miss Hill – Subject Leader for Geography: ehill@elycollege.co.uk

Maternity Leave - We are delighted that Mr and Mrs Perkins are expecting the arrival of their second child in the New Year – as a result, Mrs Perkins will take maternity leave from January 2023. Mrs Perkins tutor group will be looked after by Mrs Highland for the rest of the year. We are also thrilled that Ms Collins is expecting her first child and will also be taking maternity leave from the end of January. Mrs Perkins' lessons will be picked up by re timetabling existing history teachers from PHSCE within the college staff and by retaining Mr Newton for the rest of the year to pick up the PSHCE lessons. Covering Ms Collins in technology is a bit more problematic but we have a solution in place – details of this will be set out below. However, Ms Collins' form group will be looked after by Mr Hunt for the rest of the year.

New members of staff joining us - I am pleased to inform you that we have been successful in recruiting a teacher of computer science to join us in January. There will, therefore, be some changes to the Year 7 and 8 timetables to bring back computer science into the curriculum. You may recall that we decided to temporarily remove computing in Year 7 and cut the allocation in Year 8 so that we could provide a curriculum that is high quality and taught by effective practitioners. The appointment of Mrs Zainon means that we can bring computer science back into the Year 7 curriculum.

We also welcome Mrs Tod to the drama department and Mr Hunt to the PE department. All three members of staff are experienced teachers and will be fantastic additions to the teaching team here at Ely.

Staff leaving Ely College - Ms Lingham will be leaving us at the end of the Autumn term to take up a career outside of teaching. We are very sorry to see Mrs Lingham leave and hope that her future endeavours are successful but not so successful that she does not come back into teaching at some point in the future! Mrs Lingham's form will be looked after by Mrs Zainon.

With the departure of Mrs Lingham and the maternity leave of Ms Collins we have had to make some alterations to the timetable structure at Ely. Despite our proven track record of recruiting teachers to roles at Ely, there are some subjects that are proving a challenge across the Country; technology is certainly one of those. As we did with the temporary reduction in computing at the start of the year, we would always seek to ensure we have effective teachers in place to deliver our curriculum and, if we are unable to do so, will look to tweak the curriculum to make sure we have a model that supports effective delivery. Such is the solution to technology from January to July.

Therefore, we will be taking advantage of Mrs Zainon and Mrs Tod joining us to make some changes to the timetable for Year 7 and 8 but, the timetable being subject to the ripple effect, these changes are likely to have some very minor impacts on Year 9 and 10 students.

Timetable changes:

Year 7: Instead of 4 hours per fortnight for technology, for the remainder of the academic year, Year 7 students will have 2 hours of technology. The remaining 2 hours will be taken up by drama and computer science.

Year 8: Instead of 4 hours per fortnight for technology, for the remainder of the academic year, Year 8 will have 3 hours of technology and the remaining hour will be taken up by computer science.

Year 9 & 10: In order to make the changes above it is possible that some lessons for students in Year 9 and 10 will be in a different slot. This will not affect teaching groups at all, it just means that, for example, a student might have had subject A on week A Monday period 1, and as a result of the changes to Year 7 and 8, this lesson might have moved to A Wednesday 3 with something else taking the space in A Monday 1.

Could I please therefore ask you to encourage your child to check their timetable, towards the start of January, on Edulink, as they will be able to see if any lessons have moved.

Yours faithfully



Simon Warburton
Principal