**Shenfield High School**

**Headteacher’s Report**

**to the Governing Body**

**December 2020**

**Numbers currently on roll: 1441**

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| Numbers on Roll | | | |
| Y7 | 249 | Y11 | 172 |
| Y8 | 242 | Y12 | 184 |
| Y9 | 238 | Y13 | 145 |
| Y10 | 211 | **TOTAL** | **1441** |

**Staffing**

One member of the English Department is leaving at the end of term for another post. He will be replaced by a teaching apprentice who will be starting her contract on 3rd December to ensure an effective induction prior to the new term.

**Attendance – students and staff**

Inevitably, attendance is being adversely affected by the Covid19 pandemic. Our Attendance Officer, Linda Jones, is doing an outstanding job liaising with parents, giving advice and calming anxieties. We are coding Covid-related absence differently so while our ‘normal’ absence figures look roughly comparable to previous years, it is worth looking as well at Covid-related absence to understand the full effect on attendance.



Current circumstances are also having an effect on staff absence. From the beginning of term until 25th November, here are the number of days lost for teachers and support staff:

Normal sickness 110 days

Isolating 81 days

Shielding 11 days

Positive Covid test 9 days

Been for Covid test 9 days

Covid childcare issue 43 days

I cannot make a direct comparison with last year because we had three long term absences in the same period in 2019, but this at least is an indication of the significant effect the pandemic is having on our ability to operate.

**Other Operating issues**

This has been a term like no other and has been dominated by operating the school as normally as possible but under Covid restrictions. Governors are already aware of the measures in place to allow us to operate as securely as possible.

Although we have been relatively fortunate in terms of the number of positive Covid cases where we have had to take action as directed by Public Health England, there has still been a significant effect. So far we have had three Y13 cases and one Y12 case, hence the isolation figures for those year groups. We have also had one positive case amongst our staff. Following Track and Trace directives, this led to 7 further members of staff self-isolating. Projecting 20 staff absent for the week beginning 23rd November, it was necessary to close the school to Y7 and Y9 from 23rd November until 1st December.

Action had already been taken to pre-record two weeks of lessons in every subject in every year group. Lessons have been provided for every student and for every timetabled lesson and all students are being expected to access the lessons and to do the work set. Analysis of who is logging in will allow us to contact students who are not meeting our expectation with their remote learning. Wellbeing calls are also taking place, prioritising students and families known to be vulnerable.

**Use of Catch-Up Funding**

There is an allocation of £82,800. It should be noted that we usually receive a £20,800 Y7 catch-up fund but this has not been allocated this year. Approximately £42,250 has been allocated so far in support of the following strategies:

* Y7 literacy and numeracy support. (£20.800)
* Additional counselling to meet escalating mental health needs (£6,200)
* Additional Careers Guidance (£2,300)
* Workshop and extra tuition in art to cover work missed (£360)
* ConstructionWise Minds (£5,600)
* Thinking Reading Additional Training (£3,800)
* Comparative judgement writing project initial fee - £250
* Additional resources in geography to support missed fieldwork (£250)
* Additional resources in history to support missed content (£177)
* Subscription to Planet E-Stream to support remote learning (£2,000)
* Subscription to Vidlearn to support remote learning (£500)

**Covid Costs**

The additional costs to the school because of the Covid pandemic are significant. The overall cost up to November 2020 is currently £142,579. There has been a reimbursement of only £3,500 from the government so far with the potential to re-coup a further £25,000. Having spent £6000 on sanitising products in the first half term of this academic year, the costs for the whole year are likely to be in the region of £25-30,000.

This information has been sent to Alex Burghart MP, at his request.

Taking into account our loss of lettings income because of the suspension of grassroots sport, this has the potential to impact our finances significantly, as reported to the Resources Committee.

**School Improvement Headlines**

A reminder of our School Improvement headlines:

1. To manage effectively the process of re-opening the school following the period of closure with full regard to:

* safety,
* student and staff wellbeing
* academic support and progress
* planning for remote learning should a further period of closure be required

1. To further develop our practice using the curriculum as our model of progress.
2. To further develop student leadership and participation in the school community through revised systems and development of culture
3. To work towards all students being able to read to at least their chronological age and to develop students’ writing ability.

Presentations on headlines 2, 3 and 4 were given in this term’s Standards and Performance Committee and arrangements will be made for staff leading on these areas and for Team Leaders to present to that committee in subsequent meetings.

Published newsletters can be viewed via the link:

<http://www.shenfield.essex.sch.uk/newsletters/overview.aspx>

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**Carole Herman**

**December 2020**