

LINK ACADEMY TRUST

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1st July 2020

Dear parents and carers,

Parent Online Learning Survey Response

I would like to thank all of you that spent time and returned the survey we sent out to you at the start of the second half of term in relation to online learning provision across the Link Academy Trust. We had a high response rate, with a final figure of over 380 families that responded - which was very encouraging and helpful.

Each Academy looked at the responses directed at their school and were really pleased to receive the positive comments which praised the efforts of staff to initiate a wholly new approach to learning so rapidly. It was clearly recognised that staff had to adapt to swiftly develop a whole new approach to the provision of learning which they did with real dedication but also learn rapidly from the things that have been posing problems for you.

Having received your survey returns all Academy Heads have worked together to set up some immediate actions, some long-term actions and an action plan to improve IT provision and infrastructure in time. We feel this level of long-term planning might well be needed as we move into a future which still could see some children spending some of their week learning at home with the possibility of further lockdowns or partial opening. If nothing else, improved remote learning could provide a much better quality of home learning for all our pupils.

To this end we have identified that we are currently and intend to continue to work on:

- How we can bring effective *teaching and teacher interaction* to pupils on a weekly basis - supporting parents by ensuring teachers regularly interact socially online with their class, instruct and bring authority to learning through a physical presence wherever possible, i.e. through teaching/ motivational videos, zoom meetings etc
- We also intend to introduce weekly overviews of the learning expectation for pupils as children will then have a structure to follow but can apply some flexibility. It is hoped this will reduce stress for parents as they will have teacher authority to drive the learning forward.
- We will provide choice for learning and instruction which will enable pupils to access learning but in a way that suits them and their family circumstances.
- Finally, we intend to improve consistency in what is set and delivered from teacher to teacher in terms of quality, quantity and feedback given.

In the long term we intend to develop our use of an effective platform to provide online learning resources and teaching capacity for all children. We have decided that we will continue to expand the use of E-schools for our younger pupils and build pupil understanding of Microsoft Teams with our older students.

This will require training for staff and pupils as well as our parents. It is our intention that this will be our priority for September. This forward planning will enable us to prepare staff through a current and ongoing training programme to enable pupils to be supported in the effective use of the platform from September when they return to school. This will allow home learning to be highly effective whenever we need it and will expand pupils understanding of online learning, vital for life-long learning. In order to develop online learning, we are linked with Edu Tech, a government initiative which is already supporting improved practice.

Alongside these actions we also need to find a way to improve the provision of infrastructure for some of our pupils, most obviously internet connection and devices - this is much trickier but nonetheless a priority that we are working on.

I hope this information clarifies the actions that the Trust intend to put in place to further improve the quality and provision of remote learning. Your responses really helped us to identify these actions and we anticipate that the outlined actions will further improve every child's learning.

If you have any further suggestions or wish to make further suggestions, please feel free to contact your Academy Head. We hope that by working together effectively we will fully prepare every child for the future. Online learning will be a strategic improvement priority for the coming year.

Once again thank you for the time you have given to respond to our survey.

Kind regards,

Nicky

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