



THE BUCKINGHAM SCHOOL

A SPECIALIST SPORTS COLLEGE

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Headteacher: Mr A McGinnes

05 November 2021

Dear Parents and Carers

I am writing to you about key decisions and plans that have been made, to ensure that our wonderful school keeps moving forwards.

In Summer 2021, the Governors issued a fresh strategic vision for the school. In the process, they made some key decisions:

1. Simplifying our vision to **“Success for All”** and adopting a fresh mission of **“To equip All to be the best version of themselves”**

To me, it is incredible to sum up the vision of the school so perfectly, in just three words. In our school's context, these three words mean so much. Our students consistently show that anything is possible and setbacks, such as Covid-19, will not hold them back from lifelong success and happiness.

Everyone has a talent, a gift, an ability that they can make the most of – whether that be top grades, sporting success, or just being a wonderful human being. We believe in virtues above all else.

2. Ceasing being a lead school in The School Sports Partnership

We have worked for many years with local primary schools to provide sporting opportunity. However, as the school has grown, this has placed more and more tension on the availability of staff and facilities for our own students. At our recommendation, the Governors agreed to cease this activity, with the intention of ensuring that our own students receive the best of what we have. We are in a great position of strength as a school and wish to focus our reputation on all-round strength, not just sport. For those who care deeply about sport, please be reassured that this is a decision that aims to allow us to redouble our sporting efforts towards our own students.

3. Adopting the school's proposal of **“The Buckingham Way”** as the foundations of their strategy

In times before pandemics and lockdowns, we adopted “The Virtues”; these being Ambition, Confidence, Curiosity, Empathy, Integrity, Resilience and Respect, as the traits we would seek to develop in our community. *The Buckingham Way* is the glue that holds these together and we will be expecting our students to:

- Take personal responsibility for their actions – for good or bad we understand that everything we do is because of a choice that we make
- Seek to self-improve – we can reflect on our choices and make even better ones in the future
- Respect the authority of the adults – as a school, we thrive on a diet of positive relationships and we expect the students to respect the experience, knowledge and qualifications that their staff have

A summary of the Governors' three-year strategy can be found at the end of this letter.

In school, on a daily basis, we have ongoing improvements to make. The Ofsted inspection in 2020 recognised the growing identity and heartbeat of the school. They recognised our many strengths and left us to continue to work on those things we have already told them about.

The Buckingham School is concerned that every student should have the opportunity to attend school activities/obtain equipment, regardless of their financial circumstances. As such, it may be possible to subsidise those students who would otherwise be unable to attend trips/purchase items. Please feel free to write in confidence to finance@buckinghamschool.org, if you wish to seek assistance, or obtain more information about Pupil Premium funding.



We have two main drives for the year:

1. Culture and Standards

We never stop thinking about how to move our inclusive school forward. Largely, we have eradicated poor behaviour, as noted by Ofsted. Now the next steps of our approach is to take compliance and turn it into a culture which defines how the students treat each other and the rest of the community and how they approach their studies. One of our Virtues is integrity and you will often see this defined as “how you behave when no one is looking”. As you have seen above, we will do this *The Buckingham Way*.

These are challenging times for our society and for our young. But they are also exciting times, packed with promises of what the world could be and as a school, we have been discussing with our students the principles of inclusion and diversity. The discussion so far has clarified the school’s zero-tolerance stance on racism, homophobia, transphobia, misogyny and inappropriate sexual behaviour. These are more than bullying and can never be tolerated.

Alongside the idea that we can expect more, the reiteration of “upstanding” has become a regular part of our discussion. To our students, we ask “what would you do?” Would you ignore, walk on by, pretend to have not seen or heard? Or will you stand up for what is right?

2. Curriculum and Teaching and Learning

We are in a good place. We have a great support team, keeping our school going better than ever before. Our support staff are the back-bone of our inclusive approach and the students know and trust that they can turn to them, or any available adult.

Our teaching staff are now the strongest team that I have seen at this school. We have structured plans in place to develop our ambitious Curriculum and how it is taught. We are further developing our Schemes of Learning to ensure that students are studying the right things, at the right time and being prepared for qualifications and future career opportunities that are appropriate to them. Further, in the classrooms, we will strive to ensure that our students commit more learning to memory and recall it, ready to use. Our most academically able students are starting to do as well as they should, but we have some way to go.

The phrase that we are using frequently is “teaching to the top, and scaffolding down.” This refers to our intention to ensure that all students are challenged and supported as necessary.

Attached to this letter, you will also find a summary of the School Improvement Plan for the year. We are committed to continue to improve our school and nothing will be allowed to hamper our progress. If we won’t allow Covid-19 to be an excuse, then nothing else will be either! Therefore, we will aim to make developments in the areas of the Plan, embedding The Buckingham Way.

We are looking forward to this year unfolding.

With best wishes



Mr A McGinnes

Headteacher

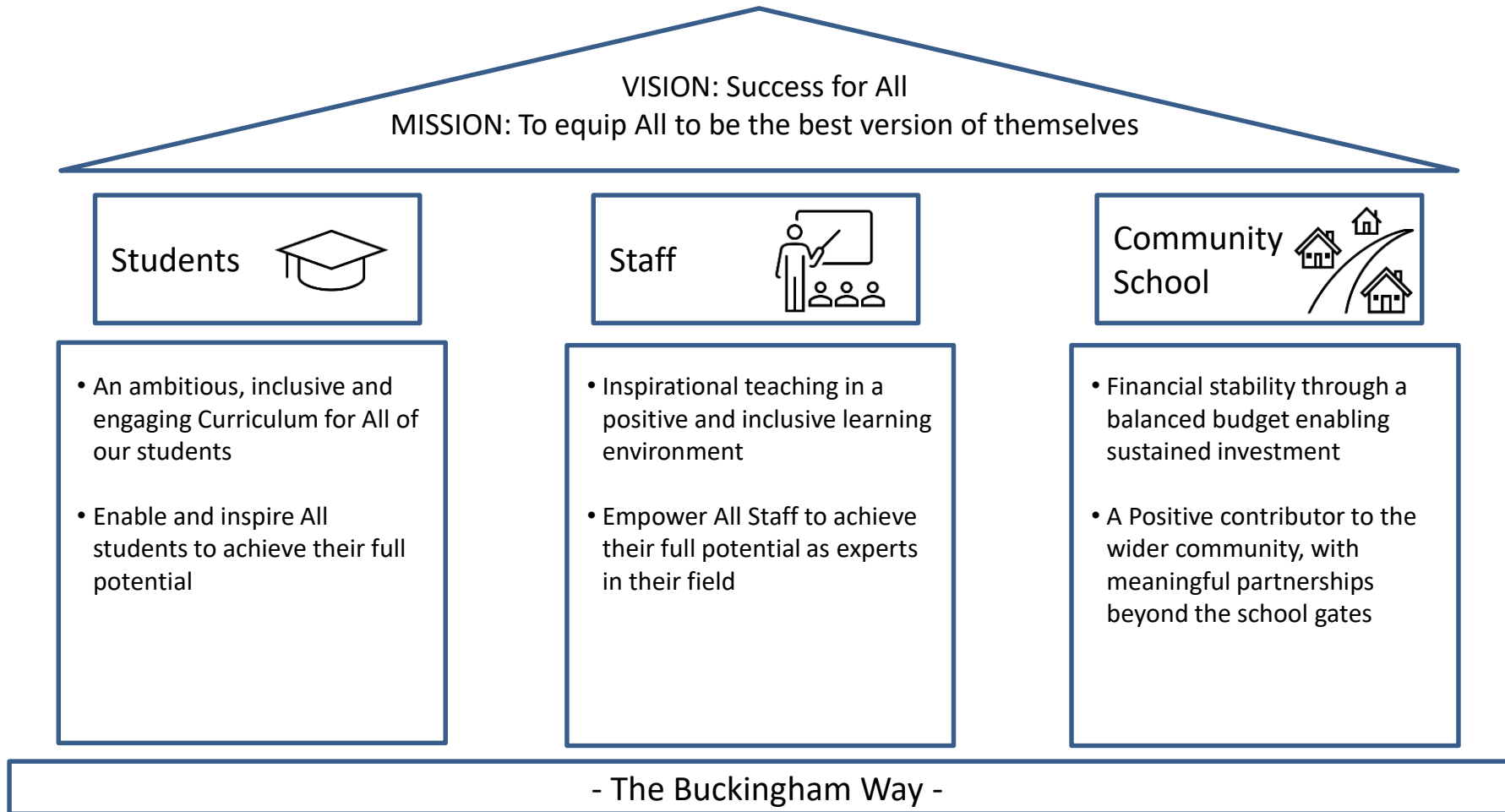
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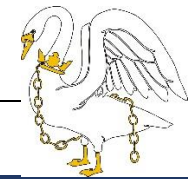
3 Year Strategic Plan [2021-2024]



Success for All



SIP 2021-22 Outline Plan



STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE	The School, driven by The Buckingham Way, will:
STUDENTS	<p>An ambitious, inclusive and engaging Curriculum for All of our students</p> <p>Enable and inspire All students to achieve their full potential</p>
	<p>1.1 Ensure that the curriculum is logically sequenced, offering a broad and balanced range of opportunities to learn and to thrive, that it is driven by current educational research.</p> <p>1.2 Embed a culture that promotes ALL students' self-development and academic progress, whilst ensuring students are resilient learners that are prepared for their future careers and pathways</p> <p>1.3 Ensure that the curriculum exploits the opportunities provided by technology to offer individualised learning, and rich experiences of independent learning</p>
STAFF	<p>Inspirational teaching in a positive and inclusive learning environment</p> <p>Empower All Staff to achieve their full potential as experts in their field</p>
	<p>2.1 Embed a well-developed quality first teaching model – driven by The Buckingham Way - that relies on pedagogical methods steeped in educational research and developmental practices</p> <p>2.2 Embed a positive culture – driven by The Buckingham Way - reflected in everyday language and practice, that sincerely celebrates pupils' many and varied achievements, and their progression from their starting points</p> <p>2.3 Continue to develop our multi-agency approach to safeguarding and higher levels of additional need</p> <p>2.4 Develop and embed a culture which recognises the vital role of staff and recognises their authority as adults, and as successful and experienced learners</p> <p>2.5 Ensure that the school's development and training programme is versatile enough to meet the needs of all, whatever their role, career stage and aspirations</p>
COMMUNITY	<p>Financial stability through a balanced budget enabling sustained investment</p> <p>A positive contributor to the wider community, with meaningful partnerships beyond the school gates</p>
	<p>3.1 Ensure that the timetable is equitable and matches the needs of the students as well as the financial security of the school</p> <p>3.2 Ensure that the school carefully plans for budget surplus and to invest in improving facilities and resources</p> <p>3.3 Ensure that school secures opportunities to secure additional funding/income</p> <p>3.4 Develop links with the community which are of mutual benefit to the ambitions of the school, and to the community</p> <p>3.5 Maintain relationships with alumni of the school in order to inspire ambition amongst current students, support community links and career development opportunities</p>