

7 July 2017

Dear Parent/Guardian



As we approach the end of term and another year, I would like to thank you for your unwavering support. I would also like to keep you informed of some key dates and information.

Leadership Development at Forge:

You may have read that Forge is now a national support school (NSS) and I have been designated as a national leader of education (NLE). This means that we can now provide additional leadership capability in other schools. It's an incredible honour to receive this designation and I am looking forward to supporting other schools on their journey towards improvement and getting ideas that will improve Forge. Our commitment to the young people at Forge remains unwavering but we are now able to extend the reach of the Forge effect and make an even bigger difference. It's important that we ensure that standards remain high at Forge and we continue to strive towards Ofsted Outstanding and to this end I've made some important changes to our leadership structure:

Our current vice principal for key stage 4, Dr Lisa Mason, will become our new Head of Academy. Many of you know Dr Mason, she has worked at the school since 2003. Her new role will be taking over many of the day-to-day functions that I've been involved in; this extra capacity will allow me to function on the more strategic direction and focus on continued improvement.

Craig Cooling will continue his role as our Senior Vice Principal but with an increase in responsibilities and will work closely with both Dr Mason and myself.

We will also be welcoming Geraldine Butler to our executive team as she takes a role up as acting vice principal for inclusion, she will be supporting Louise Kay our vice principal for inclusion.

Further to our national support school status and my appointment of an NLE, our marketing director, Kris Griffin, has been designated a specialist leader of education (SLE). We believe that he is the first member of support staff in the country with a marketing specialism to attain this status.

In addition, I'll be writing shortly with news that a further eight members of staff now have SLE status. This means we will have ten members of staff who are nationally recognised as leaders that can support other schools in their journey of improvement. As well as being a very proud of our status and our capability, I am also pleased to report that the support work we undertake as a support school will become a valuable income stream in this era of tight budgets.

Tuesday 11 July: Sports Day at Hingleys

The annual academy sports day will take place on Tuesday 11 July, weather permitting. Students will be attending lessons period 1 and 2 as usual and will be expected to wear full academy uniform. Morning break will be extended which will give students time to eat their food. If the weather is good, please send your child with a hat and sun cream. Following break, students will be escorted down to Hingleys Playing Fields and the competition will begin at midday. The day is due to finish by 3pm and all students will be dismissed from Hingleys, unless they are usually picked up from the academy. If you would prefer to pick your child up from the academy at 3.10pm, as per a usual Tuesday, please complete and return the attached slip to your child's form tutor. If we do not receive a response we will assume they are to be dismissed from sports day.

If the weather is poor, or exceedingly hot we may have to cancel sports day. If this is the case we will revert to a normal academy. If we need to cancel sports day we will let you know via text message and social media. Please check the website and Facebook page.

Shoes for September

Please be reminded that all students need to be in black shoes, that can be polished, at all times. Could you please bear this in mind when replacing shoes during the summer holiday. It is extremely frustrating when students attend the academy in expensive trainers but do not have a pair of shoes. If you need any support, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Parking at the end of the academy day

Please be sensitive to the needs of our neighbours when collecting students from the academy. The smaller side streets house elderly and vulnerable neighbours who need to access their cars and homes. To ease the pressure on Wrights Lane please use Waggon Street entrance each afternoon from September.

Bikes to school

It is pleasing that so many of our students choose the healthy option and ride bikes or scooters to the academy. Unfortunately, we have not been able to organise a Bikeability course, because of a lack of supply and the cost. However, to ensure safety we have made the decision to make it compulsory that all bike and scooter users must wear helmets from September. Students not wearing helmets will not be allowed to ride to the academy.

Friday 14 July - End of Term: Students will be dismissed at 1.20pm. It will be a non-uniform day, usual arrangement of £1 per family.

Details of the return to the academy in September are as follows:

Monday 4 September: Academy closed to students, staff training day.

Tuesday 5 September: Academy opens at 8.30am for year 7 and year 12 only.

Wednesday 6 September: Academy opens for all students at 8.30am.

The full academy calendar for 2017/18 is on the academy website.

Yours faithfully



Andrew Burns
Principal

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Please return to form tutor.

Student Name: Form:

I would like to collect my child from the academy at 4pm following sports day.

Signed: (parent/guardian)

