

4 September 2019

Dear Parent / Carer

RE: Welcome Back!

I would like to begin this letter by welcoming our new Year 7 parents to the academy; we are delighted to have been able to accept three hundred Year 7 students to the academy this year. I trust that you all have had a wonderful summer break.

It is with an enormous sense of pride that I share with you that this summer The Farnley Academy celebrated its **best ever GCSE results**, once again confirming its place as the highest performing academy in the local area by a significant margin. Our current provisional Progress 8 score is +0.59, which will likely place the academy in the top 10% of all mainstream secondary schools in the country. Alongside this outstanding progress score, the academy achieved its best ever attainment figures with an impressive 79% of students achieving a grade 4+ in English and Mathematics and 58% achieving a grade 5+. Whilst I wouldn't normally speak of individual student performances within a whole school letter, I feel it important to highlight that one of our Year 11 students achieved not only a full suite of grade 9's (the highest GCSE grade) but also was named as achieving the highest History GCSE mark in the entire country!

There were many things that led to the success of our Year 11 students this year. One critical factor, however, undoubtedly was their attendance. Year 11 achieved an end of year attendance figure of 96.5%! This was the highest of any Year 11 cohort that had attended The Farnley Academy and meant that students attended more lessons than ever and gained access to more academic and pastoral support in order to make sure that they knew where they were heading and how to get there. The 'class of 2019' was a tremendous success and we are incredibly proud of each of their individual achievements.

As we move into the new academic year, it is important that all students aspire to achieve fantastic attendance. Excellent attendance ensures that your child has full access to our Outstanding, World Class Teaching and Pastoral Care. With this in mind, we have spent a great deal of time planning our attendance rewards programme for the year. The '100% Attendance Club' was a huge success last year and is back with more rewards planned than ever! Students in the club can look forward to a reward every week between now and October half term. Those students who finished the last academic year on 100% attendance or succeeded in the '9 Week Attendance Challenge' have automatically joined the club today. Year 7, and those not currently in the club, can join at October half term so long as they maintain 100% attendance for the first half term. Without giving too much away, I couldn't be more excited about the Christmas reward extravaganza this year, it's going to be something very special indeed.

This morning I very much enjoyed welcoming students back to the academy and thank parents / carers for ensuring that uniform was immaculate, and students arrived correctly equipped to begin the school year. For any students who received a letter indicating that there were issues with their uniform, please can I ask parents to ensure that these issues are addressed urgently to avoid any lesson time being wasted. If you require any support or have any questions about uniform, please contact your child's Pastoral Support Officer:

Executive Principal: Secondary Education: Mrs L Griffiths BSc (Hons) NPQH
Principal: Mr C Stokes MA
Chair of Governors: Mrs A McAvan

Chief Executive Officer:
 Sir John Townsley BA (Hons) NPQH

Year 7	Year 8	Year 9	Year 10	Year 11
Mr O'Reilly	Miss Firth	Mr Beane	Mr Bennett	Mr Milner

As outlined in my letter to parents at the end of the last academic year, The Farnley Academy has invested heavily in ensuring that your child receives the best possible pastoral care. By means of a reminder, please see below the key contacts for each year group in school. Should you need to contact any of the below named colleagues, please consult our academy 'Communication Protocol', available on our website: <https://www.farnley.leeds.sch.uk/parents/communication-protocol/>.

	Year 7	Year 8	Year 9	Year 10	Year 11
SLT Lead	Ms Bradford	Mr Sheedy	Miss Pickering	Miss Naden	Mr Cosgrove & Mrs Lark
Academic Progress Leader	Miss Rothery	Mr Flynn	Miss Masterson	Mr Bird	Mr Denton
Behaviour Leader	Mrs Hartley (KS3)		Miss Lofthouse (KS4)		
Pastoral Support Officer	Mr O'Reilly	Miss Firth	Mr Beane	Mr Bennett	Mr Milner
On Call Manager	Miss Khan (KS3)		Mr Cafferkey (KS4)		
Inclusion & Safeguarding Leader	Mr Hill (KS3 & KS4)				
Inclusion & Safeguarding Officer	Miss Archer	Miss Tracey	Miss Martin-Mitchell	Miss Baldwin	Miss Kay
Attendance Leader	Miss Hunter (KS3 & KS4)				
Attendance Officer	Miss Smith	Miss Doolan	Miss Wilkin	Miss Friery	Miss Orme

During form time today, students were issued with their new school planner and reminded of the rules of our academy. As a polite reminder, it is expected that all parents / carers will sign the planner at the end of each week. Signing the planner will allow you to quickly review the previous week for your child and engage in conversations about both the positives and any areas for improvement the following week. The planner is a key communication tool between school and home and we will frequently communicate with you through this channel.

There is no doubt that The Farnley Academy has once again shown that it truly is a centre of excellence for education. The 2019/20 academic year for us is the year whereby we will seek to further develop within our students a true love of coming to school. We have meticulously planned our rewards programmes, competitions, extracurricular programmes and out of school trips to ensure that the 'Student Experience' at The Farnley Academy is nothing less than exceptional and we cannot wait to share with our student what we have in store for them this coming year.

I look forward to the year ahead and ensuring that this year is the best yet for our magnificent academy.

Yours faithfully



Mr C Stokes
Principal