

CST/UD2

27 March 2023

Dear Parent / Carer

I hope this letter finds you and your family well.

Over the course of last week Mr Cosgrove (Senior Vice Principal) and myself spent time with Curriculum Leaders reviewing the mock examination results for our year 11 students. It has been fantastic to hear about the progress that students have individually made since the last mock series in November. Thanks to the combined efforts of staff, students, and you our families, students have achieved the highest grades ever awarded in a mock examination series at The Farnley Academy. Despite the many challenges that our year 11 students have faced over the course of the last few years, it is wonderful to see them doing so well.

With just 30 school days now remaining until the first examinations begin, please encourage your child to engage in the wide range of support available to them. This includes Saturday Tutoring, Easter Holiday Revision, After School Revision, and of course, any home learning activities that they are provided with. Additionally, alongside engaging in revision activities, please encourage your child to participate in well-being activities such as going for a walk in the fresh air, spending time with friends and of course, engaging in quality time with their family. The recipe for success in GCSE examinations is securing the appropriate balance between working hard and personal well-being. Where you have any concerns or feel that your child may require additional support either academically or emotionally, please do not hesitate to contact Mr Cosgrove in the first instance at (info@farnley.leeds.sch.uk). He will work with you to ensure that an appropriate support programme is put in place.

On Thursday last week, Miss Wood (Student Leadership Leader) and I enjoyed a great meeting with our Heads of School. As a reminder, our Heads of School are democratically elected student leaders who put forward to the student body at the end of last year the things that they would like to see happen at The Farnley Academy.

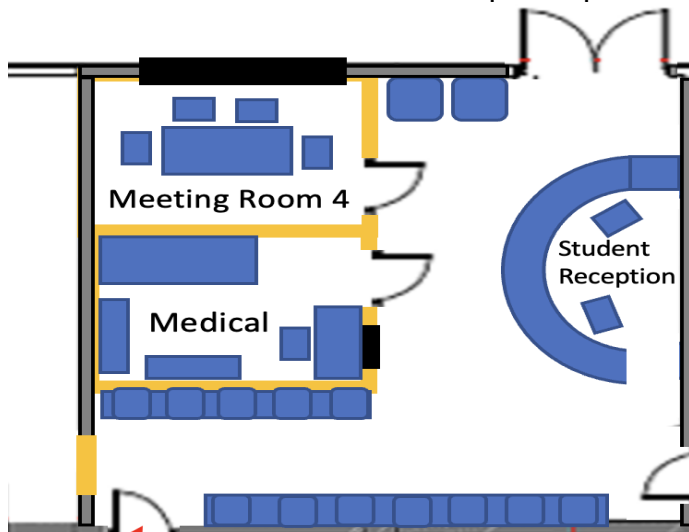
The meeting provided an opportunity for us to discuss an important development that our Heads of School see as a key priority; a new student reception area which will open fully in September 2023. The new reception area will be the base for a fully qualified school nurse who will support all students needing medical support of a more sensitive nature. The Heads of School asked for this to happen as they felt that some students did not feel comfortable going to Student Services for medical reasons owing to its location just off the main canteen.

The first phase of our new Student Reception will be completed shortly after Easter, with the installation of new external doors and a reception desk during the Easter Break. The creation of the new medical room and additional parental meeting space will then follow later in the year.

GORSE

This is a great example of student leadership at work; this development will make our school into a better place for all students.

A visual of the new Student Reception space is shown below.



In addition to discussing the new Student Reception, we discussed with the Heads of School the proposal that the Student Leadership Team have been working on in respect of changes to rules around earrings. I have agreed in full with the suggestions put forward. Student Leaders will be communicating with all students in the coming days the changes that have been agreed. I would like to thank the Student Leadership Team for the mature way that they have approached the discussion of this issue with me.

As you may be aware, alongside our Reception Team, we employ two Community Engagement Officers in school. We are keen to ensure that your experience of communicating with us is as positive as possible. Whether you contact the academy via email or telephone it is likely that a Community Engagement Officer will be a first point of contact. Because of the importance of that team, we have recruited a third colleague who will join us after the Easter break. We know that how you communicate with us varies from one family to another. Whichever way you make contact, we will endeavour to ensure that you are confident that your views are valued and of genuine importance to us.

Following on from the great success of our 'Every Child Should Experience Day' in December, I hope your child enjoyed our second experience day on Friday! This experience day was our best yet, with more than 700 students going on trips, including 155 year 11 students going to London, alongside other trips including visits to the Outdoor Activity Centre at Ripley Castle, Harewood House, Nunnington Hall, The National Football Museum, York, Malham Cove and Meanwood Farm to name a few! Those students who remained in school engaged in a plethora of fantastic activities. Some of the activities that took place included learning how to play various card and board games, learning to sew, learning to bake a cake and even learning to ride a bike where they identified that they were not able to do this in our audit at the beginning of the year. In addition to this many of our students were wowed by a magician who made his way around classrooms showing off his astonishing magic tricks. As always, all activities that are planned as part of the 'Every Child Should' programme were fully funded by the academy. We hope that students and staff alike had a wonderful day.

GORSE

Easter Eggstravaganza will be taking place this week. As a reminder, in addition to the 100% Attendance Club students who are automatically eligible for this event, thanks to the feedback and ideas put forward by our Student Leadership Team, all students are now eligible to attend the event using their 'Club Point' stickers. The cost of the event is 7 'Club Points'.

I would like to finish this letter to you today by thanking you for your continued support of the academy and wish you a relaxing Easter break when it arrives in a few days' time. School will close at the normal time on Friday, 31 March 2023, with students returning to school on Monday, 17 April 2023.

Yours faithfully



Mr C Stokes
Principal