

Dear Parent/Carer

I am writing to thank you as parents and carers for your support in making the start of the new academic year so positive. It was wonderful to see all our young people return to school looking so smart in their uniforms following the summer break. I fully appreciate that to achieve this takes a huge commitment from you as parents and carers for which the Academy is very grateful. It remains my firm belief that uniform is a key factor in the pride our young people have in themselves and this in turn has a positive impact upon their aspirations for the future and their attitude to work.

I would like to extend a warm welcome to any new pupils and their parents/carers who joined the Academy at the start of term, especially those in Year 7 and early years. We are also very pleased to announce the arrival of a number of excellent new staff who have joined us this academic year and who are already making a very positive impact on academy life. These include Mr Oldershaw (PE), Mrs Morton (English), Mrs Cook (English), Mr Chimber (Maths), Miss Collins (English), Mr Mukadam (Science), Mr Simpson-Smith (Science), Mr Fortune (History), Mr Saldana (Spanish) all joining our secondary team and in primary we welcome Miss Warren (EYFS Lead), Miss Patel (Year 5), Miss Salter (Year 6) Miss O'Connor (Year 1) and Miss Buchanan (LSA). At Leadership we welcome Miss Fellowes who is responsible for SEN

It is with a great deal of pride that I would like to draw your attention to the achievements of last year's Year 11. Despite the challenges of the new grading system the Academy has seen a marked improvement in English and Mathematics results. 51% of students achieved a 'standard pass' in Mathematics - an increase of 16% from the previous year. 49% of students achieved a 'standard pass' in English - an 8% increase on last year. We are particularly pleased with our English Literature results of 42% showing a 16% increase from 2016. The number of students who achieved a 'strong pass' has also been impressive with 31% achieving these grades in English and 29% in Mathematics. The number of A/A* grades in Spanish are higher than ever and 98% achieved A*-C in Spanish this year; an increase of 43% from 2016. Strong performances were also achieved in our performing art subjects and vocational courses, particularly in Art & Design, Food & BTEC Drama, Health & Social Care and Child Development both achieved 100% pass rate. Our strapline 'A place for all to Flourish' is very important to us. It has been this philosophy along with the fantastic support and dedication you our parents and our wonderfully resourceful teachers that has allowed us to scale such heights. These are the best GCSE grades that this Academy has ever produced and as Principal I feel immensely proud of the achievements of our young people.

With this success in mind it is no coincidence that the attendance for Year 11 was the best in the Academy last year. There is a proven direct link between excellent attendance and academic success and this applies whether your child is in Year 11, 7 or 2. Linked to attendance is punctuality. The vast majority of our pupils arrive at school in good time. However, we are increasingly aware of some pupils arriving just beyond 8.55am, making them late for their learning. Some students are regularly late with no good reason and this impacts upon their attendance record and sets bad habits for the future. Please help us by ensuring that your child is prompt in arriving for school every morning.

Finally, the welfare and safety of our young people is always our main concern. At the end of the school day it is important that our students can exit the building safely. However, the Academy reception and the area immediately outside the doors has become very congested making it increasingly difficult for students to leave and for parents who are waiting to spot their child. I am therefore asking for your support in keeping reception and the covered main entrance completely clear at the end of the day unless you have an appointment with a member of staff. For guidance, signs will be posted to make clear where parents and carers can wait. This arrangement will begin Monday 18th September 2017. Clearly if the weather is poor I am happy for you to seek shelter from the rain. My thanks in anticipation of your cooperation with this matter.

I look forward to your continued support as we start a very positive new term in which your child will continue to flourish.

Yours sincerely

Mr Ian Harrison
Principal