

Dear Parent/Carer

I hope you have all had a lovely summer. I am pleased to inform you that the academy made improvements in our exam results compared to the last official exams in 2019. There was a 9% increase in students passing their English and maths. In Post 16, 92% of students gained a place at their first-choice university. These continued improvements could not happen without your support, for which I am very grateful.

This year we are launching our new Positive Discipline for Learning and Life Policy and a separate suspensions and exclusions policy. These can be found on our website under the policies section. The new Positive Discipline for Learning and Life policy is built around the values of being; safe, respectful and responsible. The policy outlines what is expected from students, parents/carers and the academy.

As part of the policy, we have introduced a Personalised Development Centre (PDC). This facility will be used to support students whose behaviour has fallen below our expectations. The PDC will be based off site and located in Platform 1, which is the building owned by the Local Authority just as you pull into the Academy car park. Any student being placed in the PDC will be escorted there by a member of staff to ensure they arrive safely. In the PDC, staff will review the student's behaviour with them and then support students to re-engage in learning. A member of staff will contact you should this intervention be required for your child. The member of staff will also be able to share what has happened and to plan together how we move forward to ensure reintegration back into face to face classes is successful. This intervention will not only support the student whose behaviour has not been acceptable, but also facilitate a positive culture for learning for all other students.

I appreciate how difficult it may be for some families with rising costs and inflation. Some families are entitled to free school meals. Free School Meal allowances are applied 'behind the scenes' within the academy and are therefore discrete and not visible to your child or other students. Other benefits that the academy can provide for free school meal students is help with uniform, equipment, trips, music lessons and other activities, again, this will all be handled in a discrete manner. Please follow this link to the Local Authority website to see if you are eligible. It is then the Local Authority who process the application and inform the academy if you are entitled to this.

<https://www.wakefield.gov.uk/schools-and-children/free-school-meals>

I am pleased to inform you that Year 7 has settled very well and you should be proud of them. This successful start was built upon the wonderful summer camp where students had the opportunity to make friends and build their confidence in attending secondary school.

Finally, I am really proud of the improvements made by the academy over the last 4 years, especially given the difficulties faced due to the impact of the pandemic. I believe we can continue to grow to the benefit of our children, ensuring they leave the academy well equipped to live happy, fulfilling lives.

Yours faithfully

Toby Rutter



Principal