

Formby High School

'Determined to Achieve'



DMA/LFO

26 September 2016

All Parents of Students in Sixth Form

Headteacher:
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Dear Parent

I am pleased to welcome your son/daughter for the beginning of a new year in Sixth Form and would particularly like to offer a warm welcome to those Year 12 students and their parents who are new to Formby High School.

The school is delighted to be able to celebrate the success of its Year 13 and Year 11 students in their recent public examinations. The A Level pass rate was 98% and 54% of grades were A*-B. Equally impressive were results in BTEC qualifications with 90% of all entries awarded a Distinction* or Distinction. In times when excellent GCSE results are becoming more difficult to achieve, our Year 11 students performed admirably with 75% achieving 5 A*-C grades (including English and Mathematics). Good results don't happen by chance; they are a result of careful preparation, effective work routines, a positive attitude to learning and high degree of motivation and determination. These attributes were displayed by our Year 13 and Year 11 students throughout their respective A Level and GCSE courses, and undoubtedly contributed to their success. Well done!

We are now at the end of the first three weeks in Sixth Form which is typically time for staff and students to firm up course selection and timetabling matters as they settle into Sixth Form study. Students in Years 12 and 13 have now been issued with their finalised timetables and those students in Year 12 who have opted for three A Level / BTEC courses have, in addition to their subject lessons, been assigned nine periods of independent study per fortnight. These lessons take place in O5 under the supervision of a teacher and students are expected to register at the beginning of each lesson.

I would like to use this opportunity to provide some important information and updates to help you and your son/daughter prepare well for the school year ahead.

Staffing Update 2016/17

The following internal appointments have been made for September 2016:

- Mr R Allan – Subject Leader for Computing
- Mrs G Dixon – Subject Leader for Cooking and Nutrition
- Mrs B Halton – Careers Coordinator
- Mrs G Parkinson – Director of Technology
- Mr D Rigby – Duke of Edinburgh's Award Coordinator
- Mrs D Wareing – Subject Leader for Design Technology

In addition to the above, Miss K Williams joins us as a Teacher of History and Religious Studies for this school year, replacing Mrs R Slater who is on secondment with Liverpool John Moores University.

Mr P Appleton (Teaching Assistant) has recently retired and Mr L Valentine (ICT Technician) has left to join a Crosby based ICT support company. Mrs Clark (Literacy Coordinator / Teaching Assistant) will retire at the end of this month. They have all had a long-standing association with Formby High School and are offered very best wishes for the future.





I am sure you will join me in offering my congratulations and best wishes to Mr Lucas who celebrated his wedding day during the summer holidays and also to Mr Richards who became a father to baby Noah in August 2016.

Campus Improvement Work

During the summer holidays, a considerable amount of work has been completed to improve the learning environment for our students, including the installation of 200 new computers in various locations around school (of which over 50 new computers in the Sixth Form Centre).

Attendance / Key Dates

During the last school year Sixth Form students achieved 93.4% lesson attendance; this is a positive effort but we want this to improve this year. We are aiming for 97% as exceptional attendance and punctuality are vital, particularly in Sixth Form where every moment of directed learning and opportunity for independent study is key to achieving the high expectations our high expectations. Your support with this drive is gratefully appreciated. Please find enclosed with this letter a copy of the key dates for this school year.

Driving to School / Parking

For safety reasons and as parking spaces are severely limited, students should not drive into the school grounds. They are asked to park in the Formby College car park or on Freshfield Road.

Use of the Internet / Wi-Fi Provision in Sixth Form

Safeguarding our students is of paramount importance and the school takes its responsibilities regarding e-safety very seriously. A copy of our Acceptable Use Policy for Students can be found in the Key Information/School Policies section of our website. Unacceptable content is restricted through the use of filtering software and the school follows a set of national guidelines for internet access. Given students in Sixth Form have much greater access to the internet in the Sixth Form Centre they are expected to take particular care to behave responsibly online. The Child Exploitation and On-Line Protection Unit (CEOP) has produced excellent resources for parents regarding on-line safety and I would encourage you to access them at <https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/parents/>.

Parents' Information Evenings

Parents of students in Year 12 will be invited to attend our 'Sixth Form Matters' evening at 7:30pm on Tuesday 11 October in the School Hall. The purpose of the evening is to share important information about the Sixth Form curriculum, A Level and BTEC targets, study expectations and the support and guidance provided to students. Earlier on the same evening at 6:30pm there will be a 'Raising Achievement' presentation for parents of students in Year 13. Mr O'Shaughnessy will write to you shortly with further information.

Parent Surgeries

I will continue to hold evening surgeries for parents during the course of this school year. The next surgery will take place on Monday 3 October from 6:00pm. If you would like to make an appointment, please contact Mrs Forster (Headteacher's PA) to book an appointment. I will ask a representative from the Governing Body to join me for the evening.

Student Portrait Photography

Please note that students in Years 12 and 13 will be having school photographs taken on Friday 7 October 2016. Further information on arrangements for the day and how you can purchase photographs will follow nearer the time.

Mr O'Shaughnessy (Director of Sixth Form), Miss Harrison (Progress Leader Year 12) and Mrs Grant (Progress Leader Year 13) are looking forward to another very successful school year in Sixth Form and join me in wishing your son / daughter all the best for 2016/17.

Yours sincerely

D A Mackenzie
Headteacher



TERM DATES 2016-17

Autumn Term 2016

Monday 5 September Tuesday 6 September	INSET Day 1 (staff only) Term commences for Years 7, 12 and 13 only Year 7 Welcome Assembly 10:00am Year 13 Induction Assembly 11:15am Year 12 Welcome Assembly 1:30pm
Wednesday 7 September Thursday 22 September Friday 21 October	Normal timetable for all year groups School Open to Year 11 only (am) / Open Evening INSET Day 2 (staff only)
Monday 24 – Friday 28 October	Half Term
Monday 31 October Thursday 1 December Friday 2 December Wednesday 21 December	Term resumes Presentation Evening INSET Day 3 (staff only) Term ends

Spring Term 2017

Tuesday 3 January	Term commences
Monday 13 – Friday 17 February	Half Term
Monday 20 February Tuesday 21 February Friday 31 March	INSET Day 4 (staff only) Term resumes for students Term ends

Summer Term 2017

Monday 17 April Tuesday 18 April Monday 1 May	School closed – Easter Monday Bank Holiday Term commences School closed – May Day Bank Holiday
Monday 29 May – Friday 2 June	Half Term
Monday 5 June Friday 23 June Friday 21 July	Term resumes INSET Day 5 (staff only) Term ends