

# Formby High School

'Determined to Achieve'



DMA/LFO

13 September 2016

All Parents of Students in Years 9 to 11

Headteacher:  
Mr D A Mackenzie  
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Dear Parent

I am pleased to welcome your child to school for the beginning of a new year and would particularly like to offer a warm welcome to those 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 53% 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!



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.



## Appointments

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.



## Leavers

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.





## Congratulations

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. We have installed new lockers throughout A Building and have brightened up numerous 'high traffic' areas, including the dining area foyer, throughout the school. In addition, 200 new computers have been installed in various locations around school, replacing machines that are over five years old.

## School Uniform and Equipment

I would like to thank you for your support with school uniform. Students have returned to school looking smart and wearing their uniform with pride. Where any students are not complying with the school's uniform expectation, Climate for Learning Leaders will follow this up with the student and his/her parents. A copy of the school's uniform expectation can be found in the Key Information section of our website. As colder weather approaches your son/daughter may choose to wear an outdoor coat to school. If purchasing your child a new coat please bear in mind that it must keep him/her warm and dry but does not need to be expensive and certainly not a status symbol!

Our drive to ensure students arrive to lessons fully equipped for learning continues and they will have regular equipment checks during form time. Items of stationery are available to purchase from the main office.

## Open Evening

The school's Open Evening will take place on Thursday 22 September from 6:45pm to 9:00pm. Whilst this event is primarily for prospective parents and students, all existing school parents are most welcome to come and see the activities taking place and the displays of our students' work. **Please be aware that Thursday 22 September will be closed to all students except Year 11 who will attend from 9:30am to 11:30am.** All other students are not to attend for the school day and Year 11 students will be provided with more information over the coming days.

## Attendance / Key Dates

Last school year we achieved a very impressive 96.5% attendance figure for Years 7 to 11 and we have set our students the challenge of achieving 97% this year. Your support with this drive is gratefully appreciated. Please find enclosed with this letter a copy of the key dates for this school year.

## Student Planners / Homework

Each student receives a new planner at the start of the academic year. Students must ensure they have their planner in school every day and use it to record homework and manage their time effectively whilst in school. The cost of a replacement planner is £2.

## Study+ Homework Club and Breakfast Club

Study+ Homework Club runs from Monday to Thursday in Room A14 from 3:20pm to 4:20pm and this is open to **all** students. Staff are on hand to assist students with their homework, coursework and projects and a wide range of resources are available, including 16 computer workstations with internet access. In addition, 'Early Bird' Breakfast Club is open between 8:15am and 8:45am in A14 on a daily basis. I would urge you to encourage your child to make use of these valuable facilities.

## Travel to and from School

For safety reasons and as parking spaces are severely limited, parents should not drive into the school grounds when dropping off or picking up students. Please park on Freshfield Road, avoiding the school entrance. For those students who choose to cycle to school, we ask parents to support us in improving safety and security by ensuring that bicycles are stamped with home postcode, securely locked with a high quality lock and insured against loss/damage. Cyclists are strongly encouraged to wear a safety helmet and must use the main entrance and avoid grassed areas /pedestrian pathways when cycling on campus.



## Free School Meals

Certain students within school are eligible for Free School Meals. If you feel your child may fall within this category, you will be able to find more information on our website in the Key Information/Free School Meals section. For those children in receipt of Free School Meals, there is a financial benefit to both the family and the school and we encourage parents to apply if they think they may be eligible.

## Medication

For students suffering with asthma, a **spare, labelled** inhaler must be sent to school. Any medication (including inhaler) that your child requires during the school day should be clearly marked with your child's name and handed in to Miss Butterworth or Mrs Eastwood (First Aiders) along with any care plan or instructions. Please refer to our Supporting Students with Medical Needs Policy which is accessible on the Key Information/School Policies section of the school website.

## Use of the Internet

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. During lessons, students are taught to use the internet sensibly, with proper consideration for others. Outside school, we believe that families bear the same responsibility for such guidance concerning appropriate use of the internet, social networks and other multimedia devices such as mobile phones. 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/>.

## 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.

## Friends of Formby High School

All parents belong to the 'Friends of Formby High School'. This group of parents and staff play an important role in raising additional funds for the school through organising events and various social activities. The AGM will be taking place shortly (details will be published on the school website); if you would like to help out, please attend the meeting or contact the school.

## Student Portrait Photography

Please note that students in Years 7, 9, 11, 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.

## Home School Agreement

I am enclosing a copy of the Home School Agreement which you will be familiar with. We would like to ensure our files are up to date and would ask that you sign and return the Agreement to your child's form tutor by Friday 16 September 2016. This document is an important statement of the valuable partnership and commitment the school shares with students and parents.

I would like to take this opportunity to wish your son/daughter a successful school year.

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)
<b>Monday 24 – Friday 28 October</b>	<b>Half Term</b>
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
<b>Monday 13 – Friday 17 February</b>	<b>Half Term</b>
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
<b>Monday 29 May – Friday 2 June</b>	<b>Half Term</b>
Monday 5 June Friday 23 June Friday 21 July	Term resumes INSET Day 5 (staff only) Term ends



## HOME SCHOOL AGREEMENT

Student's Name \_\_\_\_\_ Tutor Group \_\_\_\_\_

In accordance with its mission statement and aims **Formby High School** will:

- provide a safe, happy environment where your daughter/son can flourish and where her/his efforts and achievements are valued
- provide a broad and balanced curriculum to meet the individual needs of your daughter/son
- set, mark and monitor classwork, homework and coursework and provide facilities for your daughter/son to do individual study in school
- keep you regularly informed and consulted about your daughter/son's progress and about general school activities and events
- offer a wide range of extra-curricular opportunities for your daughter/son
- notify you and try to work with you to resolve concerns or problems which could affect your daughter/son's progress at school

### Parent

I will:

- support my daughter/son fully encouraging her/him to participate positively in all aspects of school life and valuing her/his efforts and achievements
- ensure that my daughter/son maintains the best possible attendance, arriving on time and properly equipped
- notify the school promptly if my daughter/son is absent for any reason and, unless circumstances are exceptional, avoid taking family holidays during term time
- keep the school informed of any concerns or problems which might affect my daughter/son's work or behaviour
- support the school's policies and guidelines on behaviour, sanctions and uniform
- support my daughter/son in homework and other opportunities for home learning
- attend parents' evening and other discussions about my daughter/son in order to work with the school to encourage her/his progress
- check and sign my daughter/son's planner each week
- ensure that my daughter/son always behaves well when in school uniform and on her/his way to and from school

### Student

I will:

- maintain the best possible attendance, arriving on time and in correct uniform
- bring all the equipment needed every day
- do classwork and homework to the best of my ability and hand it in on time
- make my best efforts in all aspects of school work and life and not disrupt the learning or progress of others
- abide by school rules and support the behaviour and discipline policies of the school
- act with courtesy and consideration towards other people at all times both in and out of school and show respect for their opinions, feelings and property
- take great care of the school environment and equipment

Signed:

\_\_\_\_\_ (Headteacher) \_\_\_\_\_ (Parent/Carer)

\_\_\_\_\_ (Student) \_\_\_\_\_ (Date)