

Formby High School

'Determined to Achieve'



DMA/LFO

Headteacher:
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Dear Parents

www.
formbyhighschool.com

As the summer holidays approach, I would like to provide you with some important information about the end of term and bring you up to date with other news and developments.

@FormbyHigh

Arrangements for the End of Term

Term will end for students at midday on Friday 21 July and lunch will not be available to purchase. Students should not bring their school bags on the final day of term. We have asked all students to clear their lockers entirely by Wednesday 19 July – no belongings should be left in lockers over the summer holiday.

Start of the New School Year

Monday 4 September is an INSET day for staff only. Students will return for the start of the new school year in September on the following basis:



- Year 7 – Tuesday 5 September from 10:00am to 12:30pm
- Year 13 – Tuesday 5 September Induction Assembly at 11:15am
- Year 12 – Tuesday 5 September Welcome Assembly at 1:30pm
- All Years – Wednesday 6 September (normal timetable for all year groups)



You will find more detailed information about [next year's term dates](#) on the school website.

Examination Results Collection Arrangements

During the summer holidays, school will be open for students to collect examination results from the Sixth Form Centre on the following dates and times:



- A Level / BTEC results – Thursday 17 August 2017 at 8:00am
- AS Level results – Thursday 17 August at 9:30am
- Year 11 GCSE results – Thursday 24 August 2017 at 9:00am
- Year 10 GCSE Religious Studies results – Thursday 24 August 2017 at 10:00am



Celebratory Trips

The end of year celebratory trips will take place on Thursday 20 July. A summary of the key information for each trip is outlined below:



- **Year 7 (Chester Zoo)** – Depart at 9:00am and return at 6:00pm; students to bring a packed lunch that will be eaten in the picnic area.
- **Year 8 (Blackpool Pleasure Beach)** – Depart at 8:30am and return at 6:30pm; students to bring a packed lunch or money to purchase lunch at the venue.
- **Year 9/10 (Alton Towers)** – Depart at 7:30am and return at 6:00pm; students to bring a packed lunch or money to purchase lunch at the venue.



Students may bring a little extra spending money, must prepare for variable weather (sun cream and waterproof coat) and should wear sensible clothes and footwear.



The trips are a reward for students' endeavour and good behaviour, and I hope they have a great time. They will be provided with more detailed information regarding arrangements on Monday / Tuesday this week.

Students who are not participating in a school trip should attend school as normal and will follow a programme of planned activities. Students are required to wear school uniform and must bring their PE kit to school. A reduced menu will be available for students at morning break and lunchtime.

Staff Leavers

After 17 years of service to Formby High School, Mrs Halton retires at the end of this school year and I am sure you will join us in wishing her a long and very happy retirement. Mr Paling (Curriculum Leader for Mathematics) is leaving us to become Assistant Vice Principal at Smithills School in Bolton and Miss McDonald (Teacher of Mathematics) will also be leaving to take up a post at Holy Family Catholic High School in Thornton; they both leave with our very best wishes for continued success. Miss McKinley (Teacher of History), Miss Williams (Teacher of History and Religious Studies), Mr Paine (Cover Supervisor) and Miss Jones (Office Administration Apprentice) all finish working at Formby High School at the end of this school year and we wish them well in their future careers.

Climate for Learning Leaders

From September, our Climate for Learning Leaders will be responsible for the following year groups:

- Year 7 – Mrs Edey
- Year 8 – Mr Lucas
- Year 9 – Miss MacDougall
- Year 10 – Mr Slater
- Year 11 – Mrs Thomas

Miss Wareing stands down as Climate for Learning Leader in order to oversee the continuing development of Design Technology and Engineering. She has performed the role with distinction and I am grateful for the support and guidance she has provided to those students in her care.

Communication with Parents

I do hope that you enjoy reading FOCUSON..., our fortnightly newsletter, which is circulated by ParentMail and posted on the school website each Friday of Week Two. Our Twitter feed (@FormbyHigh) provides a real-time snapshot of events around school and is proving very popular with over 1600 followers to date! The majority of parents are now subscribed to ParentMail. If you are not yet registered you could be missing out on important information; please contact the main office at school for assistance.

Spanish Assistance

If you are a native Spanish speaker would be interested in volunteering to assist students in developing and practising their Spanish speaking skills or know someone else who may be, please contact Miss Gilmour (Curriculum Leader for Modern Foreign Languages) to find out more information.

Reports

Year 8 reports were sent home on Friday and reports for students in Years 7 and 10 will be distributed this week. If you do not receive this information please contact your child's Climate for Learning Leader. Year 9 parents should now be in receipt of their child's end of Key Stage 3 Teacher Assessments (via students).

Campus Improvements

Buildings improvement work on L Building is progressing well and is on track to be completed before the end of the summer holidays. When L building is finished, similar work will commence on C Building early in the new academic year which should reach completion in Spring 2018. Both of these projects are the result of successful bids for funding submitted to the Department for Education and the end result will be a considerable enhancement to the aesthetic appearance of the buildings, and safety and energy efficiency. Residents of Formby will also be aware via Formby Parish Council communications that the school is working to develop sports facilities for the community and the school. Whilst these plans are in their early stages, they present an exciting opportunity for our students and the local community. You will find a copy of the Parish Council's leaflet on the school website and I ask that you complete the online survey at www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/fpcsports. I will share more information with you as and when appropriate.



Throughout the summer, enhancements will be made to our Information Technology servers that will increase network capacity and improve performance. We are also strengthening our online safeguarding capabilities with new filtering and monitoring systems. Whilst costly to the school, these upgrades are essential for effective teaching and learning in school, and to the safety of all our school community.

Cashless Systems

As outlined in communications last year, our plans to move to a completely cashless system are entering the final phase this term. From September 2017, the revaluation machines in school will no longer accept cash top ups. The only method of topping up your child's account going forward will be via ParentPay or PayPoint (system available at many local retailers). Please remember to check your child's balance regularly on ParentPay and to top up at least 24 hours in advance of service required.

Holidays during Term Time

Legislation prevents me from authorising any holidays taken during term time unless in exceptional circumstances and I appeal for your full support in this matter. From September, we will request Sefton Council issue Fixed Penalty Notices to the parents of any students taken out of school for five days or more of unauthorised holiday. This information is contained in our Attendance Policy which you will find in the [Key Information/School Policies](#) section of our website.

Behaviour and Attitude to Learning

I am very proud of the behaviour and attitude to learning of the vast majority of our students. We set very high expectations and I am proud to see students rise to meet them. Throughout this term, we have been working with staff and student representatives to refine our behaviour expectations, school rules and detention system. You have already received information from Mrs Blanchard regarding the centralised detention system, which has been in place since 10 July 2017 and early signs are that the changes are having a very positive impact. You can access our Behaviour Policy, School Expectations & Rules and all other policy information in the [Key Information](#) section of the school website. A positive attitude to learning begins with students arriving well-presented and equipped for study; a copy of the uniform requirements is available on the [School Uniform](#) section of the website and I ask that you take notice of the information when purchasing uniform, particularly shoes, for the new school year. To assist you with back to school purchases, the Equipment List is also available on the school website.

Homework, Marking and Feedback

I have recently reviewed the school Homework Policy and Marking and Feedback Policy. Both of these documents can be found in the [Key Information](#) section of the school website. The policies provide clarification of the frequency with which you can expect your child to be set homework in each subject and how often he/she can expect work to be marked in detail. Teachers' written feedback will support your child in making progress and I ask that you look at your child's books from time to time to see the work completed and the comments on strengths and areas for improvement.

2016/17 has been another highly successful school year and I am expecting the examination results in August to reflect the dedication and talent of our students. We have reached the end of the year in good shape and I would like to pass on my thanks and gratitude to our highly effective Governing Body and the outstanding and talented staff. I would also like to thank you for your on-going support; it is the strength of the partnership between parents and school that allows our young people to achieve and thrive, both inside and outside the classroom.

Finally, our students have endured a year of academic challenge, substantial changes in curriculum and assessment, and national and world events we may wish to forget. They have done so with maturity and commitment. I hope they have a great summer holiday – they deserve it!

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D A Mackenzie'.

D A Mackenzie
Headteacher