

# Formby High School

'Determined to Achieve'



DMA/LFO

October 2020

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Dear Parents

It is hard to believe that we are already fast approaching the end of the first half term of this school year. As anticipated, there have been challenges and issues to overcome but there has also been much to celebrate, not least the way that students have adapted to the changes that have been imposed and the maturity and flexibility they have shown. It has been our aim throughout to ensure you feel informed and well-prepared to help your child(ren) navigate these times and support them in restoring effective routines.

## GCSE and A Level Examinations Summer 2021

On 13 October, the Department for Education announced that the GCSE and A Level examination series in Summer 2021 will proceed three weeks later than planned (starting on 7 June 2021). Whilst this is a first step in providing more clarity to students, parents and teachers, there is still much detail awaited. We are very conscious that time is limited for students who are due to take public examinations next summer and a range of intervention and support measures have already been introduced. We are currently reviewing our practice to ensure students in examination year groups who have to self-isolate or whose teachers have to self-isolate are not disadvantaged.

## Coronavirus Update

With the Liverpool City Region now under the government's Tier 3 (Very High) level and the additional restrictions we face, I would like to urge the full support of all our students and their parents in taking the required collective action to counteract the rapid spread of infection. As a school we have, perhaps inevitably, been dealing with an increasing number of cases and this has resulted in groups of students having to self-isolate. I understand that this is not ideal but we will always follow Government and Public Health England advice when responding to a positive case. In doing so, we endeavour to keep all members of our school community safe, particularly vulnerable members of staff and students. Remote Classroom for self-isolating students has operated throughout this half term and we are currently reviewing this to determine whether provision can be delivered more effectively. If you are a parent of a child who has self-isolated and have any feedback, please send in your comments by email to [enquiries@formbyhighschool.com](mailto:enquiries@formbyhighschool.com). A fortnight ago we circulated our [Coronavirus guide](#) for parents which provides a wealth of helpful information. Please do take the time to read it.





## Communication with School

I would like to provide some clarity around communications with school.

- **Parents wishing to contact teachers** at school should do so either by telephone using 01704 873100 or by email using the [enquiries@formbyhighschool.com](mailto:enquiries@formbyhighschool.com). Teaching staff will aim to respond to your query within 48 working hours, and sooner where appropriate or possible.
- **To report a COVID-19 positive case** please use the designated email address which will be monitored out of hours: [covid19@formbyhighschool.com](mailto:covid19@formbyhighschool.com). This will enable us to act upon the information as soon as it is made available.
- **To report student absences** please use the student absence lines (01704 873100 Option 1 for Years 7-11 and Option 2 for Sixth Form). Whilst we would hope that appointments during the school day can be avoided wherever possible, should you wish to request leave of absence for your child, please ask him/her to collect a form from the General Office and bring it to you for completion. He/She will then need to return the form to his/her Climate for Learning Leader for processing and authorisation by the Headteacher. Please submit requests two weeks in advance of the appointment. **Please do not use email to report absences or request Leave of Absence permissions.**
- **Students at home wishing to contact one of their teachers** should send a message using the Class Charts messenger service.

## Fireworks and Safety in the Community

As we approach Halloween and Bonfire Night, we are aware of increasing activities involving fireworks in our local community and wanted to write to parents to highlight some key safety concerns and expectations which we would urge you to share with your child(ren). Fireworks are explosives and can be highly dangerous and anyone under 16 found in possession of a firework, including bangers, can be arrested and fined £60. A young person can also be arrested if he/she throws or lights a firework in a public place, makes a bonfire in a public place or injures, endangers or annoys other people with a firework. Both [Merseyside Fire & Rescue Service](#) and [Merseyside Police](#) have useful guidance on their website which we would encourage you to read.

I would also like to emphasise that should any student be found in possession of a firework whilst in school, then the school will take immediate action and treat the incident as an extreme behaviour breach. Possessing and/or activating a firework in school or whilst walking to/from school will result in exclusion from school and Merseyside Police will be informed.

Everyone should be able to safely enjoy Halloween, fireworks and being out and about in their local community. Anti-social behaviour in the community is not acceptable and will be dealt with swiftly by the authorities, with the full cooperation of our school. We would all agree that we want our young people to enjoy themselves but to ensure they fully respect their community and the safety of all who belong to it. To support students in their understanding of the importance of this message, information will be shared with them during tutor time next week.

It has been great to see elements of normality creep back into school life over the last few weeks, particularly with the return of some extra-curricular activities and elections for School Parliament and the Junior Leadership Team. I was also really pleased to receive notification this week that Formby High School has been awarded the Silver Quality mark by the Youth Sports Trust which is good recognition for all the good work that takes place within PE and extra-curricular sport.

As half term approaches, I hope all our students have a well-earned rest in readiness for school resuming on Monday 2 November. Please do stay safe and remember the importance of the Government's core message: HANDS, FACE, SPACE.

Yours sincerely

**D A Mackenzie**  
Headteacher