

Formby High School

'Determined to Achieve'



DMA/LFO

20 July 2021

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Dear Parents

As the summer holiday arrives, I am writing to share with you some important information and final thoughts on what has been a wholly untypical school year.

Oak National Academy

I know that some of you will have concerns about learning that has been lost as a result of school closure and the need for your son / daughter to self-isolate during this year, particularly where students are due to sit public examinations in 2022. Teachers have been reviewing the curriculum content they will deliver next year in light of students' performance in assessments this half term and will seek to address 'gaps' that may have emerged. For some students, this will involve them receiving tutoring or more personalised support in the new academic year. If you would like your child to undertake some self-study during the break, please take note of the Oak National Academy resources that have been published for students to access over the summer holiday, providing high quality independent learning materials in a range of subjects. Further information can be found on the [school website](#).

Let's Go Neon for Neonatal

On Friday 9 July we held a non-uniform day to raise funds for the Liverpool Women's Hospital's 'Tiny Big Steps' appeal. As many students were self-isolating on that day, they missed the opportunity to donate to this excellent cause. If you wish to make a donation, you can do so [via this link](#).

FHS Garden

Our School Garden is growing beautifully and bearing fruit thanks to the nurturing of the several student groups involved. We are delighted that Tesco Formby chose our garden project as one of the three token options this summer – if you are shopping at Tesco Formby before 30 September and are happy to donate your blue token to this project, our gardeners would be delighted!

Campus Improvement Projects

I was really pleased to receive notification from the ESFA (the funding branch of the Department for Education) that the school has been awarded £320,000 to upgrade the heating system and infrastructure in A Building and a further £550,000 to replace the leaky roof on P Building. All work will take place in the new school year and both projects should have a very positive impact on continuing to improve our facilities.

Staff Farewells

As is often the case at the end of a school year, we say farewell to several members of staff. Mr Carton (Teacher of Mathematics), Mrs Daly (Teacher of English), Mr Halton (Teacher of English), Mr Makin (Teacher of Cooking & Nutrition) and Mr Toal (Teaching Assistant and Cover Supervisor) all leave having been with us for this school year and we wish them well in their future ventures.





Miss Thompson (Teacher of Mathematics) leaves Formby High School after three years to take up an Assistant Head of Department role at Tarleton Academy. Mrs Eastwood (First Aider) also leaves, having joined the staff in 2013. During the pandemic, she answered the NHS's call to arms and has balanced her school commitments with a nursing role at Southport & Formby NHS Trust. Miss Thompson and Mrs Eastwood both leave with our thanks and very best wishes.

Last but by no means least, the 'young at heart' Mr O'Shaughnessy retires, having taught at Formby High School for 27 years. Initially, in charge of the English department, he became Director of Sixth Form in 1999. He has fulfilled this role with commitment, a genuine interest in the young people within his care and typical good humour. I am sure there are many young people who look back fondly on their time with Mr O'Shaughnessy in Sixth Form and I would like to thank him on behalf of the whole school community for the impact he has had. Best wishes, Mr O!

To finish, I would like to thank you for your patience, understanding and encouragement during this academic year. Through the adversity of the last 18 months, I have learned a lot about our school community, not least about its caring and supportive nature. None of us have escaped the impact of the pandemic and the challenges it has presented, and I know some families have been deeply affected by the suffering it has caused. The role of schools was redefined by Covid-19 and we have had to operate outside our comfort zone and in a climate of uncertainty. Whilst we have not always got it right, the will to adapt and survive has been there, and I feel proud of what we have achieved as a school community and the collective effort of staff, students, parents and governors.

Last week's Year 11 'Prom on the Lawn' and this afternoon's Sports Day were genuinely enjoyable events, providing some much needed normality, and I look forward to the new school year with optimism. With considerably less disruption and turmoil, I am hopeful that we can return to concentrating on our core purpose of providing students with a high-quality experience in the classroom and beyond. I am also hopeful that the rhythm of the new school year will be less disrupted and implore all of our students to 'never miss a beat' in 2021-22. More on this theme in September.

In the meantime, I wish you a restful and enjoyable summer break.

Yours sincerely

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

Mr D A Mackenzie
Headteacher