

# Formby High School

'Determined to Achieve'



DMA/LFO

2 July 2021

Dear Year 10 Students and Parents

## Year 10 – Moving Forward Together

I wanted to write to you as I am sure you share my concerns about the disruption that Year 10 students have had to their learning during the last 18 months. In addition to two periods of school closure, many students have been required to self-isolate on several occasions and this has, without doubt, disrupted the continuity of their education. The purpose of this letter is to assure you that we are wholly committed to doing whatever we can to support students and their parents over the next 12 months, and to outline our initial plans.

As yet, we are uncertain as to what the new school year will bring, both in terms of the Covid safety measures that schools are required to implement and the need for students who are close contacts of positive cases to self-isolate. Currently, the organisations that represent the teaching profession are putting pressure on the government to provide some clarity on these matters and I am hopeful that the need for students to self-isolate will be ended. In terms of how GCSE results are determined, the government and Ofqual (the body that regulates examinations and qualifications in England) have already confirmed that there will be some scaling back of the non-examination assessment (NEA) in certain subjects in order to reduce the burden on students and teachers. It is likely that there will also be changes to examinations in some subjects to reduce the content on which students are assessed. Although this has not yet been confirmed, the Secretary of State for Education indicated that this was his intention in a recent appearance before the Education Select Committee that was [reported by the BBC](#). Before any changes are announced, a consultation will have to take place and I would encourage you to participate in this process.

We will implement a range of measures to support students through the next 12 months, some of which are set out below:

- Mrs Harrison-Forsyth (Assistant Headteacher) and Miss MacDougall (Year 11 Achievement Leader) will be responsible for overseeing and implementing the Year 11 Raising Achievement Plan (RAP) through which students' progress will be closely monitored with personalised packages of support being implemented where necessary.
- Additional teaching groups will be introduced in some subjects, enabling smaller class sizes and more individualised support.
- A Pastoral Support Worker will be retained to work exclusively with Year 11, supporting students' mental health and well-being.
- To develop students' study skills and help instill effective learning routines, we are currently investigating the possibility of working with an outside agency that will deliver a series of inspirational workshops during Year 11.
- Where we feel students will benefit from additional catch-up support, we will utilise government funding to offer them the opportunity to attend after school one-to-one or small group tutorials in subjects they study.

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All of the above will be in addition to the usual subject area support that is provided to students as they approach their GCSEs, including revision sessions and Easter School provision.

We would like to draw your attention to the [Year 11 Making it Count](#) page of the school website which will provide essential information and resources for Year 11 students.

The Oak National Academy has produced a very good set of resources for students wishing to work independently to supplement their in-school learning in some subjects. These can be found at <https://classroom.thenational.academy/> and I would strongly encourage you to explore and engage with what is on offer. On the [Year 11 Making it Count](#) page you will find a leaflet from Oak National Academy providing further information to students and their parents as well as a series of flyers from GCSEPod outlining their summer programme of support for parents and students.

Given the disruption to date, it is of paramount importance that all students in Year 10 attend school if they are fit and well enough to do so. Good attendance will go a long way in helping teachers to offer their full support. With this in mind, please avoid any term time absence next year unless it is absolutely essential and please also ensure your child is fully equipped for each school day.

Next week Year 10 students will complete assessments. Whilst I am sure they will want to perform well, the scores that students attain in the assessments are not 'the be all and end all' and they will not contribute to final GCSE grades. The assessments are significant as they will inform the students and their teachers of what they know well and areas of course content that will need to be revisited / retaught during Year 11.

I know that Mrs Harrison-Forsyth has written to you to introduce herself and I hope that her letter and this one provide you with reassurance that we are here to offer as much support as possible to ensure all of our Year 10 students fulfil their potential.

If you require any clarification or support, please do not hesitate to get in touch.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D.A.M.' with a stylized flourish.

**Mr D A Mackenzie**  
Headteacher