

Formby High School

'Determined to Achieve'



DMA/LFO

10 September 2021

Headteacher:
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Dear Parents

As we approach the end of the first full week of school, I wanted to write to you to provide a number of important updates. Firstly, however, I would like to extend a very warm welcome to our new Year 7 and Year 12 students who have joined 'Team FHS' this September. I am delighted to see how they have settled very quickly into their routines. We look forward to working with them and their parents during their time at FHS to ensure this is a successful, happy and memorable chapter of their lives.

Speaking of happy and memorable, I would like to extend our congratulations to Mr Rigby and his family on the birth of their first child in August. In addition, a special mention to Mr Brindley who completed the extreme triathlon (2.4m swim, 112m cycle, 26.2m run) in July raising £1,600 for Alzheimer's Research and to Mr Chestnutt who, along with a relay team of five others, swam the English Channel last weekend raising over £23,000 for Aspire, a charity supporting those with spinal chord injuries.

Staffing Announcements

The following appointments have been made for September 2021 and we offer a very warm welcome to our new colleagues:

Teaching Staff

Mr A Chestnutt (Design Thinking)
Mr A Flower (Mathematics)
Mr J Jenkins (Mathematics)

Miss L Oldham (English)
Mr J Smith (History)
Miss F Waters (English)

Support Staff

Mrs R Ade (Teaching Assistant)
Mr P Allen (IT Technician)
Mrs J Alexander (Teaching Assistant)
Miss M Carragher (Teaching Assistant)
Mrs H Cooper (Teaching Assistant)
Miss E Cuffe (Teaching Assistant)

Miss G Gaudie (Teaching Assistant)
Mrs P Holt (Teaching Assistant)
Miss O Hunter (Assistant Accountant)
Mrs M Johnson (Attendance Administrator)
Mrs S Simmons (Teaching Assistant)
Mrs D Siadankay (Teaching Assistant)

Parent Governor Elections

In the coming weeks, you will receive information regarding the upcoming Parent Governor elections. We are fortunate to have a very dynamic and highly-skilled Governing Body that is wholly committed to the success and development of FHS. Becoming a Parent Governor allows you to be a part of shaping the future of the school and supporting its ongoing development. We will be seeking to elect two Parent Governors in the upcoming election and would warmly welcome your interest. You will receive more information in due course but should you wish to discuss the role, please do not hesitate to contact our Clerk to Governors, Mrs Forster, at clerktogovernors@formbyhighschool.com.





Campus Improvement Work

During the summer break we had 14 new interactive screens installed in classrooms across the campus which will make a big difference to the teaching and learning experience. During this term the roof is being replaced on P Building and after the half term break work will commence on upgrading the heating system throughout A Building.

School Uniform and Equipment

In the main, students have returned to school looking very smart and fully equipped. There are, however, a small number of instances where uniform requires improvement, particularly in terms of footwear with some students currently wearing trainers. I ask for your full support in ensuring any issues are resolved as soon as possible. Please click the following links to access full expectations around school [uniform](#) and [equipment](#) on our website. If students wish to use a locker to store their belongings, they should bring a padlock to school and utilise the lockers available in A Building.

Open Evening 2021

The school's Open Evening will take place on Thursday 23 September 2021 from 5:15pm to 7:30pm. **School will be closed to all students on this day except Year 11 who will attend during the morning.** Year 11 students will be provided with more information at the beginning of term.

Attendance / Key Dates

The impact of excellent attendance on the progress and attainment of students is well proven and I appeal for your full support in achieving this for your son/daughter. Legislation prevents me from authorising any holidays taken during term time unless in exceptional circumstances. We will request Sefton Council to 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.

I would ask that you also note the school's term dates for this academic year which can be found on our website [here](#).

Travel to and from School

I would like to continue to encourage the majority of students to walk or cycle to school wherever possible. 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. If your child needs to use public transport, we would ask that they are prepared to follow the appropriate guidance in place regarding face coverings. 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 and residents' driveways.

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 [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.

Use of the Internet

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 11 October 2021 from 5pm. If you would like to make an appointment, please contact Mrs Forster (Headteacher's PA) to book an appointment.

Communications

Please continue to regularly check your ParentMail communications as well as the [school's website](#) and twitter account (@FormbyHigh) to keep in touch with important communications.

Finally, please be aware that it is the responsibility of parents to ensure that contact information held by the school is accurate – if you have had any changes to telephone/email/home address information and have not updated the school, please do so by emailing enquiries@formbyhighschool.com.

Yours sincerely

Mr D A Mackenzie
Headteacher