

Formby High School

'Determined to Achieve'



DMA/LFO

8 November 2022

Headteacher:
Mr D A Mackenzie
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For the attention of parents of students in Years 7 to 13

Dear Parent

First of all, I would like to thank all parents and students for their support last week with the Ofsted inspection – so many of you provided survey feedback and this was very helpful to inspectors. In addition, all students made an excellent impression with their polite and positive behaviour whilst the inspectors were in school and many of them met with the inspection team and spoke confidently and honestly when asked for their views about the school. Whilst I cannot provide any update to you at this stage, I will, of course write to all parents when the Ofsted report is released.

New Governors Welcome

Further to my letter dated 30 September announcing two vacancies for Parent Governors, I am delighted to confirm that we received two nominations and, therefore, Miss Lara O'Donnell and Mrs Jennifer Stuart were elected uncontested to the Governing Body. I would also like to welcome Mr Peter Killen who was recently appointed as Community Governor by the Governing Body.



School Funding Campaign

The Governing Body has written the enclosed letter to Bill Esterson, our local MP, to highlight the impact of rising costs and insufficient funding on our budget and what this means for our students. We have asked our MP to press the government for an urgently needed improved financial settlement for schools and colleges ahead of the Autumn Statement on 17 November 2022. Rising costs and insufficiency of government funding are causing a crisis that threatens educational provision. It affects us all and I should be very grateful if you would show your support by also writing to your MP and highlighting the issue as a concerned parent (before 17 November). You can find your MP's contact details [here](#).



Pre-Public Examinations (PPEs)

I would like to wish our Year 12 students good luck in their PPEs this week and Year 11 who will be sitting their PPEs Monday 21 November – Monday 28 November. Just a reminder that there will be a Year 11 Raising Achievement Programme information meeting for parents on Wednesday 9 November at 6pm in the School Hall.



Sixth Form Open Evening

Sixth Form Open Evening takes place on Thursday 17 November 2022 (6-8pm) and we look forward to welcoming our Year 11 students and parents to this important event. As part of the evening, you and your son/daughter will be able to discuss subject choices with our subject specialists and tour the Sixth Form facilities. There will also be a brief





presentation by Mrs Harrison-Forsyth and some current Sixth Form students about the Sixth Form offer and application process. In order to prepare the school for this event, all students will finish school early at the end of Period 4 (2.20pm) on that day.

Grant Funding Opportunities for Students

I have recently been made aware of two organisations that provide small donations to students to support their education, any equipment or resources they may require, wider enrichment activities and preparation for life beyond school. The first fund is the Joseph Hartley Bequest Fund which is open to all Formby residents under the age of 25 and is not means tested. Further information can be found at the link below.

[Joseph Harley Bequest Fund \(cfmerseyside.org.uk\)](http://cfmerseyside.org.uk)

The second fund is the John James Rowe Foundation, open to girls and young women aged between 11 and 25 who live in Merseyside. A copy of the application form for this organisation can be found [here](#) on the school website.

I would encourage you to consider an application for your child if they require financial assistance with any aspect of their education (in school or beyond).

Prime Energy Drink

I have growing concerns about Prime, an energy drink that has recently been launched in the UK. The drink is becoming increasingly popular with students but I understand that there is only limited availability in the UK. This has created a 'black market' with bottles of Prime being sold for well above the recommended retail price. This week, students will receive information in school regarding selling Prime, which is strictly forbidden and will result in an appropriate sanction.

Vaping

In September 2022 the NHS released the report of its 2021 survey into smoking, drinking and drug use amongst young people. The findings indicate that 9% of 11 to 15 year olds regularly or occasionally use e-cigarettes. 18% of all 15 year olds are currently e-cigarette users, increasing to 21% (more than one in five) for 15 year old girls. Interestingly, 23% of young people who socialise with friends outside school every day currently use e-cigarettes. The statistics indicate that vaping has increased for all groups since the 2018 survey was conducted. This is a concerning picture as the health risks of e-cigarettes are not fully known.

They do, though, contain nicotine which is an addictive and harmful substance. In light of this growing trend we intend to review the content of the RESPECT curriculum to ensure suitable information, advice and guidance is provided to students. I would encourage you to discuss vaping with your child and to try to maintain an open dialogue with them regarding the matter. For your information, the law is very clear that e-cigarettes cannot be sold to or bought for someone under the age of 18 and we will deal with any incidents of vaping or being in possession of vapes in school in line with the Behaviour Policy and Drugs Policy.

The Aspire Guide Careers Resource

I thought that you might be interested in [this](#) careers resources that has been created by Up Reach, an organisation responsible for promoting social mobility. The Aspire Guide contains very helpful information about young people's post-16 and post-18 options and guidance on different education and career paths. It is presented in an easy to digest format and may prove a useful point of reference for you and your child.

Christmas Cheer Appeal

With a little less than 8 weeks to go until Christmas, our thoughts are turning to those families within our school community who are currently experiencing financial difficulties. Given the current economic climate more families than ever could do with a little extra help and support so we thought it would be nice to set up a Food & Gift bank at Formby High School. For those of you who would like to get involved, donations of food and gifts can be sent into school from 14 November up until 12 December 2022. All donations will then be made into hampers and distributed to those who need them most. Any donations can be handed



into the General Office for the attention of Mrs Brooks. All donations no matter how big or small will be welcomed; all we ask is that gifts are new and food donations have a shelf life beyond 25 December 2022. We can guarantee the hampers will be greatly received and help spread a little festive cheer to a number of children within our school and their families.

Any questions please contact Mrs Brooks: a.brooks@formbyhighschool.com

Contact Details

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. Please note that if you change any contact details directly in the ParentMail system, this information does not update the school systems – please always update the school first as a priority. For full information on how Formby High School manages personal data (how it is collected, stored and processed by the school) please refer to our [Privacy Notice on the school website](#).

Yours sincerely

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

D A Mackenzie
Headteacher

Formby High School

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DPE/LFO

7 November 2022

Bill Esterson MP

bill.esterson.mp@parliament.uk

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Dear Mr Esterson

FORMBY HIGH SCHOOL – School Funding

I write as the Chair of Governors of Formby High School on behalf of our Governing Body. We wish to bring to your attention the increasing difficulties we are experiencing in balancing our budget without having to make cuts that will limit our curriculum, teaching support and risk a decline in educational standards. We are requesting your support in pressing the government for an improved financial settlement as a matter of urgency.

You are no doubt aware of the growing financial hardship many schools across the country face because of steeply rising costs and the lack of government funding to meet those costs. Analysis by the Institute for Fiscal Studies shows that, on current government spending plans, schools will be receiving 3% less funding per pupil in real terms by the end of this parliament in 2024/25 than they were 15 years previously in 2010. Colleges will be receiving 11% less funding, and funding for school sixth forms will be 27% lower than in 2010. A survey conducted by the Association of School and College Leaders shows that:

- Nearly all respondents (98%) said their school or college would have to make financial savings either in the current academic year 2022/23 or future years, or both, compared to last year, as a result of cost pressures. Alarming, 60% said they will have to make financial savings both in the current academic year and in future years.
- In the absence of additional funding, 58% said they were considering or likely to reduce teaching staff and increase class sizes, while 43% are considering reducing curriculum options, and 55% are considering reducing the number of teaching assistants.

Our school is one of those affected. We are gravely concerned for our future financial sustainability, the potential impact this will have on the life chances of children and young people, and the long-term damage that lack of educational investment will cause to national economic growth and stability. As such, we appeal to you to impress upon the government the importance of improving the funding for schools and colleges in the Autumn Statement on 17 November.

Yours sincerely

Mr D Pearson
Chair of Governors

