



FORMBY HIGH SCHOOL

Determined to Achieve

AWO/LFO

15 September 2023

Dear Parents

It has been a pleasure to welcome students back to school after the summer holidays and, as we reach the end of the second week of term, I am very pleased with the settled and positive start we have made to the new school year. I would like to share some important information with you and flag some of our priorities in school over the coming weeks and months.

Attendance

We have made an encouraging start to the year in terms of attendance and I am delighted that so many of our students have attended every day. Our average attendance so far is 95% which is 1% higher than the same time last year. The link between good attendance, good progress and good wellbeing could not be clearer: students who attend school learn more effectively, develop confidence and establish stronger connections with their peers. As we near winter, we will inevitably see more instances of minor illness. The Chief Medical Officer has written a letter to all schools to ask that parents are aware that it is usually appropriate for parents to send their children to school with mild respiratory illnesses, including general cold symptoms: a minor cough, runny nose or sore throat. Should you have any concerns, you may find this information useful: [Is my child too ill for school? - NHS \(www.nhs.uk\)](https://www.nhs.uk).

School Uniform

Students have responded well to our focus on uniform standards. Over the coming weeks we will continue to reinforce our expectations in a positive manner. Our uniform policy is unchanged and is readily available to view in the [Key Information/Uniform](#) section of our website. May I please draw particular attention to our expectations that all students should bring a suitable school bag with them each day, that only small metal studs are acceptable as earrings and that girls' skirts should be knee length. A significant number of students are wearing footwear that is not allowed under our school policy but has become 'the norm' despite this. With your support, we will address this over the course of this school year. I intend to take a reasonable approach to this, but I would urge all parents to consult our uniform policy before buying any replacement footwear. I will communicate further with you about this soon, but should you have any questions please contact the school.

Safeguarding

The safety and well-being of all our students at Formby High School is a core priority. Each year the school identifies a safeguarding priority on which to focus our efforts and enhance our support of students. This year we will be seeking to raise awareness of online harms and the significant risks these pose to our young people, not least given their daily exposure to these risks in the 'online' culture of today. This focus will not only help us to better prepare and protect our students against online harms but also provide support to parents. Whilst this may be our priority focus for the year, our pastoral teams continue to provide exceptional levels of support to our students, working closely with families. Should you have any safeguarding concerns you wish to discuss or are seeking further support, please do not hesitate to contact our Designated / Deputy Designated Safeguarding Leads:

- Mrs K Blanchard – Senior Designated Safeguarding Lead
- Mrs G Edey – Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead
- Mrs A Harrison-Forsyth – Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead
- Miss K MacDougall – Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead
- Mrs S Taylor – Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead

Headteacher: Mr A Wood BBA (Hons) NPQH

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School Catering

Our longstanding Chef from our catering providers CH&Co, Mr Whitby, will be leaving us later this month to take up a post in Liverpool. We wish him continued success in his new post and look forward to welcoming his successor, Mr Thomas. CH&Co have invested a significant amount of money towards the enhancement of our dining facilities during the summer holidays, including new fixtures and fittings, redecoration and new menus.

Campus Improvement Work

During the summer holidays some significant campus improvement activities were completed to enhance the educational experience for our students, including replacement of over 270 computers throughout the school. Work is now underway to ensure the site has full WiFi coverage from September 2024.

Sports Fixtures

I am keen that parents who want to spectate and support their children at school sports fixtures are able to do so, but our priority is to ensure students' safety and wellbeing. Therefore, parents will not be able to come onto the school site until 3.40pm and will only be allowed access to the school field where matches are taking place, and 'away' spectators will not be permitted. We will be reinforcing the FA '[silent sidelines](#)' policy, which means that all teachers, staff, players and spectators are expected to remain silent towards all on the pitch including players, the opposition and the referee. Positive praise is allowed in a calm manner, however, questioning any referee decisions or criticising students in any manner will strictly not be allowed. I respectfully ask for your support in ensuring this approach is adhered to.

Open Evening

Our Open Evening takes place on Thursday 21 September 2023 (5:30pm-7:45pm) and this is a great opportunity for the school to celebrate all FHS has to offer prospective students. **School will be closed to all students on this day, except Year 11 who will attend during the morning.** We will be seeking the support of our Student Ambassadors at this event, including our new Year 7 students who will be invited to act as tour guides for the evening.

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 [Well-being/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 strongly encourage parents to apply if they think they may be eligible.

Parent Surgery

I will be holding evening surgeries for parents during the course of the school year. The next surgery will take place on Tuesday 3 October from 4:00pm-5:30pm. Should you wish to book an appointment, please contact Mrs Forster (admin@formbyhighschool.com).

Contact Details

If your contact or address information has changed, please make sure to inform us so that we can communicate with you as needed. You can do so by emailing enquiries@formbyhighschool.com. 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](#).

I hope this information is helpful and I look forward to sharing further information with you.

Yours sincerely

Mr A Wood
Headteacher