

11 September 2009

Dear Parent / Carer

Welcome back to the start of a new academic year, I hope you enjoyed the summer break. It has been evident over our first few days that our students are ready for the challenges of the new year. I would like to thank you for preparing your child for what has been a very good start to the term. It was very encouraging to see the vast majority of students with parents and carers at the Induction Day meetings on 7 September.

We must congratulate our Year 11 'class of 2009' who achieved a record 68% of students achieving 5+ A*-C grades. In addition, 91% of students gained 5+ A*-G grades and 99% of students gained 1+ A*-G grades. Given that this year group experienced a great deal of change during their secondary education, we feel that these results are highly commendable. Our number one priority is now to increase the number of our students who gain 5+ A*-C including Mathematics and English GCSE, and we are confident from the evidence we have that we will realise this in the forthcoming years.

Examination success is based upon the ability and positive attitude to schoolwork of hard working students, committed and professional staff and a supportive home environment. Our expectation is that we will set new high standards in 2010 and as an Academy we want to start to achieve 100% in examination outcomes for students.

At the end of the last Academic year I wrote to you highlighting our KS3 exam successes, and I can now add to that the news that 68% of A/S modules sat by our new Sixth Formers achieved 'A' Level equivalent pass grades and this, combined with other Level 3 qualifications, bodes well for a great set of results in 2010, the first time that we will formally report 'A' Level results. We are also delighted that over 100 new students have enrolled in our Lower Sixth, bringing a new dimension to Academy life.

Student attendance on the year was an improved 92.4%. In line with my previous comment, we want to work towards the "100% school" by improving student attendance. Many students achieve high standards because they are here all of the time and record 100% attendance. We want more students to achieve this and to see our attendance figures continue to rise. **Please do not request term-time holidays as it is only in the most exceptional circumstances where there is true educational value, will I consider authorising such a request.**

/2

Over the last year, many visitors noted and commented on improved attitudes and behaviour of students. The vast majority of Academy students demonstrated exceptionally high standards of behaviour, and it is worthy of note that in our first

year I had no cause to formally exclude any student for poor behaviour, in large part due to our students' positive attitudes.

With increasing numbers of students and staff working at the Academy it is vitally important that parents do not use the designated bus stop or restricted parking spaces for waiting or to pick up and drop off students. Your co-operation in this matter will be greatly appreciated by our local residents in Holden Fold.

The forthcoming year will prove to be extremely busy as we prepare to move to our fantastic new facilities. We anticipate having the new facilities from May 2010 and plan to run student inductions in June and July in advance of opening in September 2010. We also intend to run open days for parents of students and for the wider community to view the new facilities at the earliest opportune moment.

I enclose a calendar of Academy events. May I bring to your attention that on Wednesday 16 September, the Academy day will finish early for students at 2.00pm. Students in Years 10 and 11 only will be allowed to depart from 1.25pm when their lunch break would commence. The early closure is to enable Academy staff to prepare for our Annual Open Evening for future students.

In anticipation of another rewarding year and your support in helping our students to achieve even better results in 2010.

Yours sincerely

BRENDAN LOUGHRAN
Principal