

October 2017

Dear Parents/Carers

I am delighted to report that we have enjoyed an extremely positive start to the new academic year. We welcomed 306 new Year 7 students to the Academy. I have been particularly impressed by the manner in which they are conducting themselves and the speed at which they have adjusted to starting their secondary education. The movement from the primary phase to the secondary phase of the students' education has been seamless and this is testament to the transition work which is undertaken in the summer term and to the commitment of our Year 7 tutor team led by Mrs Wright.

We have also welcomed over 200 students back in to the sixth form to start their Post 16 education. Again, all students have settled well into the sixth form and are actively engaged in their chosen courses.

At the end of last academic year the Academy underwent a significant refurbishment programme, over the six weeks of the summer break the following areas of the Academy were updated:

- Maths and MFL block
- English block
- Technology block
- Two Science laboratories
- Sixth form
- Main corridors – ceilings/lighting
- Upgrade of all the external areas/renewal of flagstones and re-tarmacing
- Upgrading the heating system
- Further weatherproofing of buildings

The building work and cleaning was completed by the end of Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> September! The newly refurbished areas of the Academy look amazing and we are hoping to continue the programme to ensure the whole Academy is upgraded over the next few years. This half term break we will begin to refurbish the upper school toilets as we continue with the upgrade.

This summer examination results both Post 16 and GCSE were amazing. I am incredibly proud of the students' achievements and the hard work and commitment of teaching staff to prepare students for significantly more demanding examinations across both phases.

The Post 16 students continued their success from GCSE with an incredibly impressive A Level performance. There were a significant number of students achieving A\* or A in their chosen subjects and as a result Post 16 provision is rated in the top 15% nationally for student outcomes. A great result for students, staff and parents. I am pleased to say that the vast majority of our students have secured the university of their choice, or gone on to Post 16 apprenticeships or employment. I wish the students well for the future.

The Year 11 leavers also performed exceptionally well. 77% achieved the equivalent of a grade C in English and Maths, a 5% improvement on last year. The new key measure of Progress 8 also doubled this year, our Progress 8 score of +0.6 will be significantly above the national average. The score of +0.6 indicates that on average our students achieve two thirds of a grade higher per subject than the national average. We have also had success with remarking of scripts. Currently 40 students' grades have increased across a range of subjects. As a result of successful remarking the Progress 8 and other benchmarks which are used to compare school performance will probably increase.

Recently the Academy hosted the annual Open Evening and yet again we were pleased with the level of interest from prospective parents. We expect that all 300 places available next year will be filled.

Dates for your diary this term include;

20 October	Academy closes for autumn mid-term
8 November	Year 7 Form Tutors Evening 3.00-7.00pm
9 November	Sixth Form Open Evening 5.00-7.30pm
15 December	Academy closes for the Christmas break

I would like to thank you for the continued support that you give to your children and encourage you to continue to play a very active part in their learning by talking to them about their studies, encouraging them to complete their homework on time and checking their planner at least weekly.

I look forward to updating you again shortly on events and progress at the Academy. Please make sure that you continue to contact staff should you need to discuss any aspects of your child's education, or have any concerns or questions for us.

They key initial contacts for each Year group are:

Year 7	Ms Wright	<a href="mailto:wrighta4@garforthacademy.org.uk">wrighta4@garforthacademy.org.uk</a>
Year 8	Mr Kreig	<a href="mailto:kreigi@garforthacademy.org.uk">kreigi@garforthacademy.org.uk</a>
Year 9	Miss Phillips	<a href="mailto:phillipsj2@garforthacademy.org.uk">phillipsj2@garforthacademy.org.uk</a>
Year 10	Mr Cohen	<a href="mailto:cohenj@garforthacademy.org.uk">cohenj@garforthacademy.org.uk</a>
Year 11	Miss Dunne	<a href="mailto:dunnek@garforthacademy.org.uk">dunnek@garforthacademy.org.uk</a>

With my very best wishes



**AD Woodhouse**  
**Executive Principal**