

December 2017

Dear Parents & Carers

I am pleased to take this opportunity to write to you as we approach the end of an extremely busy but very productive term for Garforth Academy.

Year 7 have settled in well and successfully made the transition from primary school to life in a large busy secondary school. Year 11 have completed their mock examinations; this is a very important first step in preparing students for the real examinations in the summer. The information teachers gather around students mock examination performance informs the intervention and study programme for the rest of the academic year. Next summer sees the implementation of the next wave of reformed GCSEs in Science, Humanities, Modern Foreign Languages, Computing, Art, Drama, Food, Music and PE due to the new style and rigour of the examinations it would be beneficial if parents and students alike support the intervention programme which has already started and will increase in intensity in the New Year.

The Sixth Form Open Evening was extremely well attended, a significant number of external students also joined us on the 9th November. Feedback suggests that the reputation of Garforth Academy as a Post 16 Provider remains strong in the local community. It is also extremely pleasing to report that last summer's A Level results places the Academy in the top 10% for performance nationally. Well done to all involved in preparing the students this summer.

Following the success of the school production last summer, "Grease", we have begun planning for this academic year's production. We have decided to stage the schools' version of "Little Shop of Horrors" and casting has already taken place with rehearsals beginning in January.

I can also confirm our Progress 8 score of +0.6 from our summer 2017 results is significantly above the national average which is very pleasing and again, places us in the top 10% nationally. This is the second year of the new school performance measure and reflects the hard work of students, staff and parents.

Dates for your diary for next term;

8th-19th January 2017 – Year 12 & 13 mock examinations

17th January – Year 8 Parents' Evening

25th January – Year 8 Market Place Evening

29th January-2nd February – Year 11 English/Maths exams

6th February – Year 11 Parents' Evening

9th February – Year 11 Taster Day

9th February – Year 12 & Year 13 Durban trip
20th February – Year 11 & Year 13 Photos
21st February - Years 12 & 13 Parents' Evening
6th March – Year 9 Parents' Evening
12th-23rd March – Year 11 mock examinations
26th March – Year 10 Parents' Evening

A small number of colleagues are leaving us at Christmas; Mrs Howard has worked at the Academy for 15 years and is leaving us to work closer to home, Miss Dunne is leaving to take up a new post in the Lake District and Mr Enzor is retiring. We wish them well for the future and thank them for all their work and support during their time at the Academy.

The Academy closes at 2.30pm Friday 15th December and re-opens on Wednesday 3rd January 2018 as Tuesday 2nd is a training day. As we break for the holiday I would like to wish you all a good break and a very Happy Christmas.

With best wishes



AD Woodhouse
Executive Principal