

March 2018

Dear Parents/Carers

As we head towards the Easter break I wanted to take this opportunity to update you about events and projects that have occurred since I last wrote. The main thing I need to share with you is that at the end of this academic year I will be leaving the Academy. This has been a difficult decision but I know that I am leaving the Academy in a good place. The recruitment process for the appointment of a new Principal has begun. I will write to you in more detail about this in my next letter. The Academy has received significant funding following a successful bid for Conditions Improvement Funding and the following projects have been identified and/or completed:
Total refurbishment of the upper school boys' and girls' toilets, we are hoping to upgrade the lower school toilets over the summer

Work on the sports hall and changing room roof has been completed and work on the roof in English has begun
New fire doors fitted to Humanities, History and Food Technology
Classrooms and main corridor painted over the holidays and other cosmetic work
Investigation work on the heating will begin over Easter
We are hoping that the projects will be completed over the summer break to minimise the disruption at the start of the new academic year.

I am pleased to announce that our validated 2017 examination performance shows that the progress made by students was well above average and in the top 10% nationally. I am also delighted to announce that the Academy has just been awarded two SSAT Educational Outcome Awards for GCSE; one is for attainment which places us in the top 20% nationally and the other for Progress as mentioned earlier. It is testament to the hard work of students and staff and the support from parents that has enabled students to attain well and make outstanding progress.

In my previous correspondence I mentioned the outstanding results we achieved at Post 16 last year. The validated results and DFE league tables have recently been released and I am pleased to say that these confirm our Post 16 A Level provision is in the top 10% of Post 16 providers in the country. It also shows that we have outperformed all local providers.

The most recent performance data to be released is the completion and attainment measure for tech levels – Garforth Academy achieved a score of +1.17 which means that our students achieved more than a full grade higher than the national average for tech levels. These results are our best ever performance at Post 16 and we are very proud of all students and staff who contributed to this amazing achievement.

Over the Easter period a number of our Post 16 students will be visiting our partner school in South Africa. They will be helping to complete a "DIY SOS" on a number of classrooms, installing IT equipment and training staff. I am sure this will be a fantastic trip and will have a huge impact on Mzuvele High School. I wish all our staff and students a safe and rewarding trip.

This term has been extremely busy with a variety of events and activities. Students in Years 10-13 have undertaken mock examinations, Year 11 have completed their progression meetings and we are working on the curriculum plan to accommodate this.

The following trips and visits have taken place this term; Sixth Form visit to Full Sutton Prison, Y12 Cambridge University trip, Sixth Form Media and Psychology trip to Paris, Y11 GCSE PE revision day in Manchester, Y9&11 work skills visits and on-going Duke of Edinburgh training trips for Bronze, Silver and Gold.

We have enjoyed a number of Parents' Evenings over the last term, all have been very positive with attendance at these events running in excess of 90%, which is a great response from parents.

The Academy is now gearing up for this summer's examinations. After school revision sessions for students in Years 11-13 are well underway and there is also a comprehensive Easter revision programme for Year 11 students. I would strongly recommend that where possible students attend.

Following on from the success of last year's production of "Grease" rehearsals are underway for the school production of "Little Shop of Horrors" which is scheduled for July. Even though many staff are involved in after school revision sessions, all of the sporting activities, music, dance and homework clubs continue to run.

For your information, the final assembly for Year 11 students will take place on Friday 15th June. Students will begin study leave at the end of period 3 on Friday 15th June. All students will be required to be in school every day until this day and will attend normal lessons and bespoke revision booster sessions around their public examination subjects.

The Academy will close for the Easter break Thursday 29th March and re-open on Monday 16th April 2018. Whatever your faith or denomination, I wish you all a good Easter break and let's hope the weather is a little kinder than of late.

With my very best wishes



AD Woodhouse
Executive Principal