

July 2017

Dear Parents/Carers

As we approach the end of the academic year, it is hard to comprehend how quickly the last twelve months appear to have gone; much has happened over the year. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all staff at the Academy in preparing students in Years 11 to 13 for their external examinations and students in Years 7, 8, 9 & 10 for internal exams. This year, staff have supported students in a variety of ways, coursework catch-up, one-to-one mentoring, past paper practice, revision session and surgeries. We estimate that over 2000 hours of extra sessions have been put in this year by staff and students alike!

Garforth Academy has been fortunate enough to secure funding which will allow us to carry out extensive refurbishment across the Academy over the summer break. This will include the refurbishment of Maths, English, Technology and Food Technology classrooms along with a couple of our ICT suites and Science laboratories. Essential maintenance/upgrade work will also be completed in communal areas including external pathways/roads, main corridors and the medical room. This will provide students with a better environment on a day-to-day basis along with supporting the Academy with reducing future overhead costs.

Having reviewed the cost of school meals, the decision has been taken to increase the cost of items by 5p and the cost of a 'meal deal' will increase, making the cost of the 'meal deal' £2.25. I am sure you will agree this is still very good value.

These are just a few of the activities that have run or are about to run this half term; following on from the success of "We Will Rock You" last summer, the Academy decided to stage the schools version of 'Grease'. Students and staff performed to a sell-out audience across all three nights. I wish to take this opportunity to thank all involved with the performance and for the level of parental support. I am already looking forward to next year's production! The Academy continues its long tradition of organising trips and visits both in school and outside of school time; Geography trip to Hornsea, a visit from Peacemakers for our Year 9 GCSE Philosophy & Ethics students, Years 9 & 10 netball players visited Paris to compete in our first ever International Netball Tournament, Year 12 Art students visited the Liverpool Tate Gallery, a number of Year 7 Music students attended a workshop and then took part in a performance at the West Yorkshire Playhouse, Year 9 Drama students have worked with the Manic Chord Theatre Company, Year 12 Biology field trip to Robin Hood's Bay, Year 12 Law students were in Court (part of their course!), Year 11 and Year 13 proms, plus many other events and activities, details of which can be found in the termly newsletter. The newsletter can be found on the Academy website www.garforthacademy.org.uk.

As always at this time of year, we have a number of staff leaving us and these are; Mr Syrett, Mr Gaunt, Mrs Barber who has been a real stalwart at the Academy and will be sorely missed. After 29 years at the Academy

Mrs Barber is taking early retirement to pursue other interests and we wish her all the very best for the future. Mrs Drewett is also retiring after serving at the Academy for 26 years. Ms Sykes is leaving us to join Leeds West Academy, Mr Nesbitt is moving to Fulford, Mr Miller is going to Outwood Grange, Ms Newman to Notre Dame, Mr Ward to Manor Croft, Mrs Laverick is seconded to Manor Croft for 2017-2018, Mr Guite will be beginning a new venture, Mrs Needham is retiring, Miss Smith is moving to Liverpool, Mr Trotter, Ms Kearney, Ms White, Ms Clamp and Ms Paciello are also all leaving us. I wish all colleagues every success for the future.

New staff joining the Academy in September are; Ms Lomas, Ms Dawrant and Ms Maskin – Science, Mr Devanney and Ms Shaw – English, Mrs Wynn and Mr Scott – History, Ms Briggs - Philosophy & Ethics, Ms Fleming – Childcare, Ms Bailie – MFL and Mr Newman - Music.

I would like to take this opportunity to wish all of our students every success with their examination results and for those leaving us this time, best wishes for the future and as we break for the summer, do all enjoy the break.

Yours faithfully



AD Woodhouse
Principal