

March 2016

## Dear Parents/Carers

I wanted to take this opportunity to write to you as we head towards the Easter break and update you about events and projects that have occurred since I last wrote to you. The Academy has received significant funding following a successful bid for Conditions Improvement Funding and the following projects have been identified:

1. To fully update the heating system that runs along the whole length of the Food/Textiles corridor and into the English foyer area.
2. To update the Academy lighting from the old fashioned strip lights to the newer more energy efficient LED lights.
3. Heating upgrades to include new pipework in a number of areas of the Academy and new boilers.
4. Re-roofing works to sections of the Academy (likely to be art area).

We are hoping that the projects will be undertaken over the summer break to minimise the disruption at the end of the summer term and the start of the new academic year.

This term has been extremely busy with a variety of events and activities. Years 10, 11, 12 and 13 have undertaken mock examinations, Year 11 have completed their guidance meetings and we are starting to work on the curriculum plan to accommodate this.

The following trips and visits have taken place this term; a group of Year 8 Philosophy & Ethics students had a two day trip to London, English students had a trip to The Lyceum Theatre in Sheffield to see 'An Inspector Calls', Year 12 English Literature students had a trip to London and Year 9 students had a trip to Betty's in Harrogate.

The recent non-uniform day raised £1725.00 for the charities listed in our earlier letter. I am proud of how staff and students supported this event.

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 95%, which is a terrific response from parents.

Recently we received a letter from Nick Gibb MP (Minister for Schools) congratulating students, parents and staff on last year's GCSE performance. A copy of the letter can be found on the Academy website. Last year's results saw Garforth Academy placed in the top 100 non-selective state schools in the country; an amazing feat, well done to all!

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 where possible that students attend.

Even though many staff are involved in after school revision sessions, all of the sporting activities, music, dance and homework clubs continue to run as well as rehearsals for the school production of "We Will Rock You" which is scheduled for July. I know that students and staff are very excited about the production, the first in a number of years.

Garforth Academy is part of School Partnership Trust Academies  
Company Number: 07386086 / Registered Office: Education House / Fusion Court / Aberford Road / Garforth / Leeds / LS25 2GH  
VAT Number: 115 8112 43

Together we are stronger...

In terms of staff leaving the Academy at the end of the year, it is unusually quiet, only one colleague is leaving the Academy, Mr Paul Rogers, site caretaker for 18 years, to start a new career. We wish him well for the future.

For your information, the final assembly for Year 11 students will take place on Friday 20th May. Following this, the students will move onto an alternative timetable for a one-week period (23rd-27th May), during which they will attend bespoke revision booster sessions around their public examination subjects. All Year 11 students are required to be in school for this week 23rd - 27th May. This will culminate with the Year 11 Prom celebration on Friday 27th May and the commencement of study leave immediately after the English Literature exam on that day. After this date, students will only be required to attend the Academy for examinations and bespoke booster revision sessions. Further information about these booster sessions will be sent home in due course.

Please note that the Easter Bank holidays this year fall outside of the Local Authority holidays. As a result of this the Academy closes for Good Friday, 25<sup>th</sup> March and Easter Monday 28<sup>th</sup> March and then re-opens on Tuesday 29<sup>th</sup> March. The Academy then closes for the Easter break on Friday 1<sup>st</sup> April and re-opens on Monday 18<sup>th</sup> April.

With my very best wishes



AD Woodhouse  
Principal