

October 2016

Dear Parent(s)/Carer(s)

I am delighted to report that we have enjoyed an extremely positive start to the new academic year. We welcomed three hundred new Year 7 students to the Academy. I have been particularly impressed by the manner in which they are conducting themselves and how quickly they have settled in to life at the Academy.

The movement from the primary phase to the secondary phase of the students' education has been seamless and this is testament to the close links with our feeder primary schools, the dedication and commitment of our Year 7 tutor team led by Miss Wright, coupled with extremely supportive parents and families.

We have also welcomed an increasing number of students from other schools and academies in to our Post 16 provision this year, with approximately 460 students enrolled on to courses. Again, all students have settled well into the sixth form and are actively engaged in their chosen courses. I would like to thank the Post 16 Pastoral team for their tireless work in ensuring that students quickly settle into their studies. The Post 16 Free School bid was submitted last month and we await the decision from the Department of Education; this is not likely to happen until the end of February next year. I will, of course, write to you again informing you of their decision.

The decision to submit a bid for a Post 16 Free School will enable us to build a state of the art purpose built educational establishment which will offer students a high quality college style learning environment.

We have also been in discussion with Leeds City Council about the potential to significantly refurbish the original site to improve the environment for all our students, as well as increasing the current admission number to accommodate the increased need for school places in the locality.

This summer the Post 16 students again performed well and I am very pleased to say that the vast majority of our students have secured places at universities of their choice, as well as securing Post 18 apprenticeships and employment.

The Year 11 leavers also performed well this summer. This year the Government have changed the way in which schools are measured in terms of their outcomes. Gone are the old benchmark of 5A\*-C inc English and Maths. The new benchmarks are now the percentage of students achieving Level 2 qualifications in English and Maths (Grade C and above) and the new progress measure called Progress 8.

Currently there is no national data for these measures, however I can share with you our targets against predicted outcomes based on the cohorts prior attainment from Key Stage 2.

Target for Level 2 English and Maths: 70%, we achieved 72.4%.

Target for Progress 8 +0.3, we achieved 0.28.

The Progress 8 measure indicates that on average our students achieve a third of a grade higher per subject than the national average, which we are very pleased with.

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Together we are stronger...

Recently the Academy hosted the annual Open Evening and it is fair to say that I was taken aback by the level of interest in the Academy. I have worked at Garforth for 27 years and I cannot remember a busier Open Evening. To say we were inundated with prospective parents and their children is an understatement. Both presentations were completely over-subscribed, colleagues from around the site reported that areas of the school which were opened for activities were swamped, so we will review the procedures for next year.

Dates for your diary this term include;

21 <sup>st</sup> October	Academy closes for autumn mid-term
9 <sup>th</sup> November	Year 7 Form Tutor Evening 3.00-7.00pm
10 <sup>th</sup> November	Sixth Form Open Evening 5.00-7.30pm
16 <sup>th</sup> 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.

The 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	Miss Phillips	<a href="mailto:phillipsj2@garforthacademy.org.uk">phillipsj2@garforthacademy.org.uk</a>
Year 9	Mrs Needham	<a href="mailto:needhamj5@garforthacademy.org.uk">needhamj5@garforthacademy.org.uk</a>
Year 10	Miss Dunne	<a href="mailto:dunnek@garforthacademy.org.uk">dunnek@garforthacademy.org.uk</a>
Year 11	Mr Cohen	<a href="mailto:cohenj@garforthacademy.org.uk">cohenj@garforthacademy.org.uk</a>

With my very best wishes

*A-D. Woodhouse*

AD Woodhouse  
Principal