

September 2019

Dear Parents/Carers

Welcome back to a new academic year. I am excited to welcome back the children to the academy and I look forward to a successful year.

We will be making some changes over the coming year which will benefit the students and the school environment. We have, over the summer, reintroduced our library space. We successfully applied for funding to kick start our new reading programme and to do this the library is an important factor. We were awarded funds to purchase new books and computer equipment and also we were given some funding to create a quiet area for students, to give them a calming environment to work in.

This year also sees the launch of our careers programme and we now have a dedicated member of staff to work with the children to help them start to plan for their futures and give them opportunities to find out first-hand what their chosen careers entail. We will also be looking to strengthen our links with the local industry to benefit our students.

You will over the next few months see an increase in security in the playground area. We will be adding additional fencing to minimise the possibility of any unwanted contact between members of the public and our students during breaks and lunch times. This is simply a precaution but will give parents and staff peace of mind, I am sure.

This year we have increased our pastoral team in order to provide support for our students and families. We have been very fortunate to recruit Sarah Hoyle, who some of you will know from her previous role in the community as a PSCO. In June, we recruited Donna Hennell an experienced pastoral manager with many years of secondary experience, she is proving to be a popular member of staff and a great support to our students. We will soon be joined by another pastoral member of staff who also has a wealth of experience with working with young people. We understand the importance of student wellbeing and as such we are very excited by the addition of these experienced staff to help support our students and families with any concerns they have. Please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any issues. The pastoral team is led by Mr Gallafent, Assistant Principal for Behaviour, Attendance and Pastoral.

Progress Evenings

We look forward to seeing you at our parent's evenings to discuss your child's progress. Please find provisional dates below.

Year 7 Settling in - Tutor evening	7 th October 2019
Year 11 Progress Evening	9 th December 2019
Year 8 Progress Evening	13 th January 2020
Year 7 Progress Evening	3 rd February 2020
Year 10 Progress Evening	2 nd March 2020
Year 11 Progress Evening	23 rd March 2020
Year 9 Progress Evening	27 th April 2020

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Year 5/6 Open Evening

We will be holding a Year 5/6 open evening on 26th September. Please come along and meet the teachers.

Coffee Morning

We are holding a coffee morning on the 1st October 11.15-12.15. Please feel welcome to pop along with any enquiries or just for a chat.

House Information

At the end of last Academic Year we rebranded our houses to the following:

Florence Nightingale House – Mr Enwright (Blue Tie)

Rosa Park House – Mrs Churches (Red Tie)

Sir Isaac Newton House – Mr Draper (Green)

Year 11 – Mr Brace/Mrs Albery (Gold)

We currently have some ties available for purchase if anyone would like to get one from the academy instead of a trip into town, please pop into the academy.

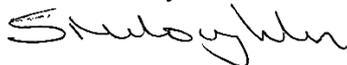
Regional Conference

Finally, each year Oasis Central Learning ask the academy to dedicate one of our staff training days towards a Regional Conference held in Bradford. Historically, it has been held on the 18th October. They have contacted us to ask us to change the date for this year to the **27th September 2019**. This means that the academy will now be **closed** on that day. We do not wish the students to be disadvantaged and legally students should attend the academy 190 days per year. With this in mind, we will reinstate the 18th October as a school day to ensure we meet our legal requirement. We sincerely apologise for this change. If you have already made plans for the 18th October 2019, which would prevent your child attending, please let us know.

For ongoing updates and information please follow us on our Facebook page and Twitter.

Thank you for your ongoing support.

Yours faithfully



Sara McLoughlin
Principal

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