



Highfield
Leadership Academy

NEWSLETTER

2017/2018



MESSAGE *from the* EXECUTIVE PRINCIPAL

Dear Parents/Carers,

As we begin a new academic year at Highfield Leadership Academy, it's my pleasure to welcome you all and wish your children every success as we work together to help them achieve the very best outcomes.

We believe in providing an outstanding education for our students through a relentless pursuit of academic excellence. We also instil in our students the need to create an atmosphere of fairness in which individual dignity is upheld and respected. We nurture our pupils to be unashamed about promoting values such as equality and respect for all, as well as encouraging them to have the very highest educational aspirations. This is enshrined in the STAR Values of:

S

SERVICE

T

TEAMWORK

A

AMBITION

R

RESPECT

These four values underpin all we do.

I am excited to be leading such a vibrant Academy. The pupils are an absolute delight and a real credit to yourselves.

Please do feel free to contact me or any of the Senior Team or Heads of Year if you have anything you'd like to raise.

With kind regards,

MRS HELEN MACKENZIE, OBE
Executive Principal



Our Key PRIORITIES

- > Keeping our pupils safe, happy and well
- > Achieving and sustaining excellence
- > Looking after our staff and community



MESSAGE *from the* ASSOCIATE PRINCIPAL

I delivered assemblies to all students during our first week back and one thing is certain: we have amazing students at this Academy. They looked smart, they were attentive and they appeared ready to work hard. With the support and hard work of parents and carers, teachers and students, I truly believe that we can make this school the very best in Blackpool. I'm very proud to be Associate Principal at this wonderful school and look forward to another successful year.

CHRIS WARDLE
Associate Principal

'Nurturing Today's Young People, Inspiring Tomorrow's Leaders'

LIFE & LEARNING at Highfield

DATES *for your* DIARY

SEPTEMBER	
WED 13	Parent Forum Anti-bullying 18:00-19:00
THU 14	Year 11 Parents' Information Evening 18:30-19:30
TUE 19	Parent Coffee Afternoon 13:45-14:45
FRI 22	Jeans for Genes Day - all pupils and staff to wear jeans (<i>rest of uniform as normal</i>) for a £1 donation
TUE 26	Parent Coffee Morning 09:30-10:30
THU 28	Year 9 Parents' Information Evening - 18:30-19:30
OCTOBER	
TUE 03	Parent Coffee Afternoon 13:45-14:45
WED 04	Open Evening - school will close at 12:50pm
THU 05	Year 8 Parents' Information Evening 18:30-19:30
WED 11	Parent Forum on E-safety and peer to peer abuse 18:00-19:00
THU 12	Year 10 Parents' Information Evening 18:30-19:30
THU 19	Year 7 Parents' information and settle evening 18:30-19:30



GCSE *Results*

We were delighted with our pupils' GCSE results in the summer. 50% of Highfield pupils achieved a 'standard pass' in GCSE English and Maths, achieving passes at grades 9 to 4.

This result highlights two years of sustained improvements at the Academy. This year's GCSE grades are up 20% on A* to C grades achieved by pupils in 2015.

These grades were achieved through the hard work and commitment to achieve the best from all our pupils and staff. We also recognised that this would not have been possible without the support of parents.

Positive strategies that we put in place to support progress and achievement ranged from targeted interventions during form time and lunchtime, after school revision classes, and Saturday morning school and holiday booster sessions. In addition to this, pupils completed a number of mock examinations to support their preparation for the GCSE examinations in the summer term.

We have reflected on the positive impacts of last year and have refined and added to the curriculum for this academic year to ensure our pupils achieve the best possible outcomes. To support us in achieving this, we have moved to a six period day. We believe that a day split into six periods allows us to offer a broad and balanced curriculum that ensures pupils will leave Highfield with the best results possible and therefore have equal chances of success and choices alongside other pupils in the country.



CATERING *Update*

We have listened to your feedback on the dining experience of the students. We are working with our caterers Chartwells to provide all children with a menu that is suitable and at the right price. We are also working to ensure that all children have a wide choice regardless of whether they are first in the queue or last. We value your opinions.

WELCOME *to our* NEW YEAR 7

from Head of Year 7, Mrs Dove

Wow, what a fabulous start to the new academic year! Our new year 7s have been simply amazing.

As I start my new role as Head of Year 7, I have been in awe at how all our new Year 7s took their first week at Highfield in their stride. They coped brilliantly with a different environment, unfamiliar faces and new experiences.

They experienced several assemblies, practice fire drills and the busy canteen, took part in lessons in new classrooms, and got to know their new teachers. Throughout the week there were lots of smiling faces and many positive comments.

I would like to also thank you, the parents, grandparents and carers, for the perfect way in which these young people were turned out in their Highfield uniforms on their first day. They are a real credit to you all.

I am very proud of our all new starters, and I am certain that this year group will achieve great things here at Highfield.

Here at Highfield Leadership Academy we want to make sure every single pupil has the right to excellent learning, leading onto great progress and achievement. We expect ALL pupils to arrive to each and every lesson on time. Our teachers will be at the classroom doors to welcome pupils and begin learning quickly.

It is vital that pupils come prepared for learning so that everyone has the chance to be successful. All pupils must bring their own bag, planner and pencil case with pens, pencils etc. as a minimum.

WHAT DOES A LESSON LOOK LIKE?

Every lesson begins with an instant recall activity which we call 'Do It Now' activities. We expect all our pupils to complete this to the best of their ability and be prepared for a challenge!

Lessons are structured into three parts:

STARTER: A great time to explore prior learning or link onto a new section in a project or topic. Teachers and pupils can explore challenging learning objectives and set clear outcomes against assessment criteria.

MAIN: This is the part of the lesson where pupils can explore the learning objectives in depth supported by a clear, concise success criteria, a range of exploration activities to support pupils' progress towards the lesson objectives, and expected outcomes.

PLENARY: This activity consolidates the learning that has taken place. Peer/self-assessment often takes place or the time can be used for self-reflection and deep level questioning to identify progress.

Don't forget:

It is important pupils take care when presenting work and make sure to follow our Pupil Guideline Expectations – these can be found in the front of all class books.

All pupils should leave lessons safely and calmly. We expect all pupils to stand behind their chairs at the end of all lessons and wait to be excused by the classroom teacher.

TERM DATES

2017	
06 SEP	School open
30 OCT - 03 NOV	Half term
06 NOV	School open
25 DEC - 05 JAN	School closed for Christmas
2018	
08 JAN	School open
12 FEB - 16 FEB	Half term
19 FEB	School open
26 MAR - 06 APR	Easter Holidays
09 APR	Inset Day - school closed for pupils
10 APR	School open
07 MAY	May Day
08 MAY	School open
28 MAY - 01 JUN	Half term
04 JUN	School open
19 JUL	Summer holidays begin

ENCOURAGING *a High Standard of* BEHAVIOUR

We use the Staged Approach at the Academy to encourage behaviour that supports a positive learning environment. It's important to us that all Highfield students are ready to study as a positive culture of learning allows all children to get the best from their education and make progress.

REWARDS

We want to reward pupils for their hard work, effort, attitude, manners, helping others, commitment, and other activities that demonstrate how they are embracing our STAR values of Service, Teamwork, Ambition and Respect.

Our rewards include:

- > Postcards sent home
- > VIVOS
- > Year group STAR of the week
- > Tea and cakes with the Principal
- > 100% attendance rewards trip
- > Positions of responsibility, such as prefects
- > Attendance prizes
- > Certificates
- > Principal's Awards

SANCTIONS

If students decide to negatively impact the learning of others through poor behaviour, the Academy has a detention system with three levels.

LEVEL 1 - Class teacher detention for low-level poor behaviour - 10 minutes at break or lunchtime

LEVEL 2 - Centralised detention in the theatre after the Academy day for 30 minutes – for continued poor behaviour. Issued if 'on patrol' is called. Parents and carers will be given notice of when an appointment is made for the detention.

LEVEL 3 - Centralised detention in the theatre after the Academy day for 1 hour – for continued poor behaviour and serious poor behaviour. Parents and carers will be given notice of when an appointment is made for the detention.

Stay INFORMED

Parents' INFORMATION EVENINGS

During the first half term there will be Information Evenings specific to each year group for parents and carers to attend – see our Dates For Your Diary on page 2.

These events are opportunities for families to receive information, guidance and support on key dates and assessment planning throughout the year including:

- > school mock exams
- > intervention plans
- > revision programmes for assessments
- > Show My Homework.

School staff will also be available to give details of the school's expectations, as well as key information on the exam procedures and strategies for supporting your child to maximise their potential.

We hope to see as many of you as possible at these events, supporting your children's education.

KEY COMMUNICATION CONTACTS

It's our aim to communicate with parents and carers regularly to give you the information you need to support your children's learning.

Parent bulletins will go out every week from 25th September. Bulletins will be emailed out to parents and placed on the Academy website. If you would like to receive the bulletin, please make sure we have your current email address. Data collection sheets will be sent home over the next week. Please carefully check that all your contact details are correct to ensure that we can fully communicate with you and safeguard your child.

Texts will be sent regularly.



Parents' FORUM

Our regular Parents' Forum events enable the Academy and parents/carers to work together to ensure that our children are safe, well and happy. Sessions throughout the year will inform and contribute to safeguarding issues.

Please do your best to attend our first event of this academic year on Anti-Bullying. This takes place on Wed 13 September, between 6 and 7pm.

KEEP IN TOUCH WITH HIGHFIELD 24/7

Our new website is full of information about the Academy.

Visit: highfieldleadershipacademy.com



We also share daily updates on Academy life through the @HighfieldLA Twitter account. Follow us!

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