



24<sup>th</sup> October 2019

Dear Parent/Carer

The start of the new academic year has been very positive at Highfield and I would like to start this newsletter by thanking all of the parents/carers who have supported the school this half-term by sending our pupils to school every day, on time, in correct uniform and ready to learn. This has really supported the positive start to this academic year. Year 7 pupils have settled in brilliantly and our new staff have been made to feel very welcome too.

The MacMillan Coffee morning was well supported again this year and it was lovely to be able to open our doors to so many parents/carers and members of the community. This annual fundraising event took place on Friday 27<sup>th</sup> September. Mackenzie Kent and Rosie Jones were the winners of Bill's Show Stopper Bakes and the event raised £230 for MacMillan.



During this half-term, we held two Open Evening events as our first one was so popular. It was a pleasure to see our newly appointed Pupil Leadership Team in action. Families were invited to hear more about the values of Star Academies and Highfield Leadership Academy, and were given a tour of the building. We received lots of positive feedback from pupils and parents about the information and we look forward to doing it again next year.

Our newly appointed Pupil Leadership Team members are doing a fantastic job in establishing themselves around the school and have already supported a number of key events. It is great to see them grow in confidence on a daily basis.

October plays host to "World Mental Health Day" and during the week, pupils experienced a number of workshops and activities to encourage them to think about, talk openly and take time to discuss mental health. This included sharing ways of improving and maintaining good mental health.



Friday 25<sup>th</sup> October will be our last day for this half-term and we will close at 3:10pm. Pupils will return to school on Monday 4<sup>th</sup> November and will be expected to be on the school premises no later than 8:40am in full school uniform, equipped and ready to learn.

### **We are an Operation Encompass School**

Operation Encompass is a unique Police and Education early intervention safeguarding partnership which ensures that a child's school is informed, prior to the start of the next school day, that there has been an incident of Domestic Abuse to which the child or young person has been exposed, and which might then have an impact on them in school the following day.

Each school is informed of all Domestic Abuse incidents, not just those where an offence can be identified or graded as high risk. The partnership recognises that all incidents of Domestic Abuse can be harmful to children and young people. This information will be shared throughout the year, including school holidays and the weekends. Information will only be shared with the school by the police where it is identified that a young person was present, witnessed or was involved in a domestic abuse incident.

A nominated member of staff, known as a Key Adult, has been trained to liaise with the police; in our school this is Mrs Cartmell & Mrs Benson. They will be able to use



information that has been shared with them, in confidence, to ensure that the school makes provision for possible difficulties experienced by children or their families. The Key Adult will keep this information confidential, and will only share it on a need-to-know basis, for instance, to teaching staff for the child or young person. It will not be shared with other school students.

### Attendance and Punctuality

I am pleased with the continued improvement of many individual pupils during this half term; however, we can certainly do better overall. **Our whole school target for Attendance is 97%.** A number of people will receive a letter from me over the coming weeks where their child's attendance is a concern, especially if it is currently below 95%.

Excellent attendance and punctuality are a key foundation to achievement and success at school and it is therefore essential that we equip our pupils with the necessary skills for future employment. In relation to this, may I also remind you to avoid booking holidays in term time as the school does issue fixed penalty notices in response to term time holidays. This is in line with the Blackpool Local Authority guidelines on unauthorised absence.

### Change of School Telephone Number

On Friday 19<sup>th</sup> July the school telephone number changed to 01253 965750.

Also, the **Absence Line** changed, please ensure that you update the number on your phones and contacts.

**Absence Line 01253 965760**

### Communication

#### Pupils first day back Monday 4th November: School Re-opens (8am)

- 7<sup>th</sup> November – Bill's Helping Hands Beach Clean  
– Blackpool Schools Dance Festival – 6.30pm (Winter Gardens)
- 10<sup>th</sup> November – Remembrance Sunday – Pupil Volunteers & CCF Staff
- 11<sup>th</sup> November – Armistice Day - Pupil Leaders lead Act of Remembrance  
– Culture of Kindness and Respect Week. Focus on Anti-Bullying – inc. PSHE sessions and visits to Primary Schools (TBC)
- 12<sup>th</sup> November – Anti-Bullying Ambassadors Event
- 14<sup>th</sup> November – Parent Internet Safety Evening 5.30pm – 6.30pm
- 20<sup>th</sup> November – NCFE Health and Fitness Exam 9.00am
- 21<sup>st</sup> November – Y10 Parents' Evening (4.30pm - 6.30pm)
- 28<sup>th</sup> November – GCSE Awards Evening Presentation (Yr11 Leavers 2019) at Village Hotel
- 2<sup>nd</sup> December – Y11 Mock Examinations & HT2: KS4 Assessment week 1
- 9<sup>th</sup> December – Y11 Mock Examinations & HT2: KS4 Assessment week 2
- 12<sup>th</sup> December – Pupil Leaders Carol Service St Mary's
- 17<sup>th</sup> December – Reward Experience 2 (Yr7 & 8)
- 18<sup>th</sup> December – Reward Experience 2 (Yr9 - 11)  
– Community Christmas Party (11.30am - 1.30pm)  
– Yr11 Art Mock Exam
- 20<sup>th</sup> December – School Closes for Christmas

### Important Notices

#### Drinks & Food in the building

As we continue to promote healthy life choices in school, can I remind you that fizzy drinks are not allowed so please do not send these to school for snacks and lunch. Children are encouraged to bring a bottle of water to school each day so that they can drink during the day. There is the facility to refill these if needed.

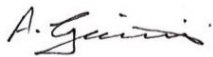
In addition to fizzy drinks, we will be working with pupils to stop the consumption of 'share size' bags of crisps and full packets of biscuits before school as well as during breaks and lunches as these do not promote healthy life choices.

As I start my third term as Principal at Highfield Leadership Academy, I remain as determined and committed as ever to make it a beacon of excellence within our community and live up to our mission “Nurturing Today’s Young People, Inspiring Tomorrow’s Leaders” in all that we do. Through a shared ambition and strong partnership with parents, we will be able to provide all pupils with the very best educational experience possible. We recognise that the development of the ‘whole child’ is an integral part of our work. We want pupils to achieve both fantastic outcomes and to develop their interpersonal skills so that they are confidently prepared for life beyond school. At the heart of this ethos, we will continue to promote our STAR values of Service, Team Work, Ambition and Respect.

Finally, can I remind anyone with children in Year 6 or who have friends/colleagues with children in Year 6, that the deadline for secondary school applications (to start September 2020) is 31<sup>st</sup> October 2019.

Have a well-deserved and safe half-term break.

Yours sincerely



Mr Galbraith  
Principal

