



## Communication

### A message from the Executive Principal

Dear Parent/Carers

As we start our second half term, I would like to take this opportunity to thank you all for your superb support and commitment to Highfield. We have had the most wonderful start to the new academic year with our Year 7's looking immaculate and really taking responsibility for their learning. Their approach to high school has been fantastic. Year 11 take their responsibility to GCSE and all exams extremely seriously and I am very impressed with their mature attitude and response to learning. All other Year groups are working hard which is very pleasing to see.

We are all delighted with our examination results in the Summer and only yesterday I was delighted to see that the Blackpool School Improvement Board recognised significant improvement in the schools performance with Maths at Highfield being highlighted as the strongest performing subject across Blackpool. Our improvements in children's learning are to be admired.

On an exceptional high note we have had many, many families look round the school with a view to their young people starting in September 2019. We hosted a highly successful open evening in early September followed by weekly open days to share with families how we work. These have been wonderful and it has been great to welcome so many families into the academy.

I will be ensuring that a weekly newsletter goes out going forward as parents have requested one a week rather than a half term. I look forward to the appointment of a new parent Governor as a ballot will be held on Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> November. The Governing body is a fantastic group of people who challenge and support the academy to ensure in all areas there is continued improvement.

I do hope you had a restful half term break and look forward to receiving pupils back for the next half term feeling refreshed and ready for the run up to Christmas.

With kind regards

Mrs Helen Mackenzie OBE

## Important Notices

- Forthcoming Events**

**Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> November 4.00-6.00pm**– Year 7 Settling in evening

**Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> November 9.30-10.30am (and every other week)**– Parents coffee morning in the Academy

**Friday 9<sup>th</sup> November 10.00am**– Highfield Road Park Remembers

All are welcome to join some of our pupil leaders and pupil volunteers will be joining the members of Highfield Road Park as they aim to plant up to 1,000 knitted poppies in honour of those who made sacrifices for our freedoms.

**Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> December 6.00-7.00pm** – Carol Service at St Mary's Church

**Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> December 11.45am-1.15pm** – Christmas Tea Party at the Academy for the elderly and local community groups

Christmas is fast approaching and the festive period offers an opportunity for us to demonstrate our commitment to serving the wider community. Therefore, we will be collecting food for hampers for local residents living in sheltered accommodation hats, scarfs, gloves and toiletries for Streetlife, and Christmas gifts for young carers aged between 11-16. More details will follow next half term.

- **Achievements**

#### **Student Council**

We are really proud of all the pupils who took part in our election campaign and congratulations to all those who were successfully elected. We look forward to working alongside you to ensure our key priorities are met. Remember your voice matters.

#### **Year 10 Football Team Get a Kick Out of Winning Schools Tournament**

The boys team came out on top of a football tournament against other Blackpool Schools. The tournament saw Highfield hit the back of the net eleven times in total against local rivals, whilst only conceding once. A 6-0 victory against St George's School followed by a 3-0 win against St Mary's Catholic Academy set Highfield on course for a showdown with Montgomery High School who had also won their first two games. The final finishing 2-1 in our favour sealed **three** wins from as many games, as our team claimed the title.

#### **Year 7 Football Team have their own 'Truce in the Trenches'**

Throughout October and November we are exploring what, why and who we remember on Armistice Day. We were delighted when Mr Johnson and his newly formed Year 7 team decided they wanted to honour the 1914 Christmas Truce. Pupils were inspired by the humanity and the bravery of the soldiers on the front line. Many believe as well as singing carols, exchanging gifts and burying the dead, the soldiers had a game of football. Here at Highfield we are so proud our Year 7 team realised sport is a way of breaking down barriers and uniting all. We may not have won the tournament but we can hold our heads up high for leading such an important act of Remembrance. Our team ensured all teams were offered the opportunity to wear a poppy. A minute silence was held and all players shook hands before the tournament began. Our team even offered all the players treat at the end just as the soldiers exchanged a gift.

#### **Silver Surfers Success creates more Service opportunities**

As a result of the success of last year's Silver Surfers Project, Blackpool Coastal Housing have invited Highfield Helpers, some of our pupil volunteers, to extend the intergenerational ICT course they run to help boost older people's confidence when using the internet while also tackling social isolation. In addition, our pupil volunteers will now also host special themed ICT and craft session. The first special session will help clients use their ICT skills to access information about Remembrance as well invite them to make their own Remembrance memorials and Peace Pebbles for our Academy garden. We are so proud of the strong community links and friendships are young people are developing.

#### **Pupils organise a collection for Blackpool Food Bank**

During our 'Pupil Voice Week', teachers asked pupils which charity they wanted to support, with Blackpool Food Bank gaining the most votes. Pupils not only collected food, but sorted and labelled the items before delivering them. Much of this work was completed by Highfield Helpers, a group of pupil volunteers within school.

## 2018/19 Term Dates and Holidays

<b>05 SEPT</b>	Academy open for all pupils
<b>19 OCT</b>	Academy closes for half term
<b>29 OCT</b>	Academy open for all pupils
<b>21 DEC</b>	Academy closes for Christmas Break at 12.30pm
<b>7 JAN</b>	Academy open for all pupils

**KEEP IN TOUCH WITH HIGHFIELD 24/7**  
Our website is full of information about the Academy.  
Visit: [highfieldleadershipacademy.com](http://highfieldleadershipacademy.com)



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

## Key communication as from September 2018

Senior Leadership Lead for Year 7 – Nicola Eccles - [nicola.eccles@highfield.staracademies.org](mailto:nicola.eccles@highfield.staracademies.org)

Senior Leadership Lead for Year 8 – Ailsa Bowie - [ailsa.bowie@highfield.staracademies.org](mailto:ailsa.bowie@highfield.staracademies.org)

Senior Leadership Lead for Year 9 – Claire Smith - [claire.smith@highfield.staracademies.org](mailto:claire.smith@highfield.staracademies.org)

Senior Leadership Lead for Year 10 – Charlotte Marsden - [charlotte.marsden@highfield.staracademies.org](mailto:charlotte.marsden@highfield.staracademies.org)

Senior Leadership Lead for Year 11 – Nicola Dodgson - [nicola.dodgson@highfield.staracademies.org](mailto:nicola.dodgson@highfield.staracademies.org)

Vice Principal – Angela Robinson – [angela.robinson@highfield.staracademies.org](mailto:angela.robinson@highfield.staracademies.org)

Principal – Louise Riley – [louise.riley@staracademies.org](mailto:louise.riley@staracademies.org)

Executive Principal – Helen Mackenzie OBE- [helen.mackenzie@highfield.staracademies.org](mailto:helen.mackenzie@highfield.staracademies.org)