



## Communication

### A message from the Executive Principal

Dear Parent/Carers

We have now four weeks until we break for Christmas with much activity taking place. Do please take the time to read the attached letter as it gives a breakdown of our Festive Winter Gifts Programme. I am delighted that so many of our young people are involved in many aspects of community work and it really shows their passion and care for others. Our values of Service, Teamwork, Ambition and Respect are really visible in so many of our young people. They are a credit to yourselves and indeed, their academy.

Year 11 are preparing to start their mocks on Monday and for two weeks they will be concentrating on their revision and application of knowledge in the exam setting. I know how hard they are working and how much work you do in supporting them and so I wish them every success in these forthcoming exams.

I would like to pile on the praise to our dance troupe who performed amazingly in Blackpool recently and who have been performing their routine for each assembly. They are truly a gifted group of young people displaying fabulous teamwork and real respect for each other. I have been truly blown away by their performances as I have watched them over a number of weeks develop into a fantastic troupe of dancers.

I was delighted to welcome visitors from the University of Brighton Academy Trust who had expressed a wish to have a look at Highfield. They are a Trust on the south coast who have similar characteristics to Blackpool. Our young people involved in the afternoon were highly articulate, professional and proud of their learning, their academy and their community. They spoke very clearly about their ambitions, their interests and the visitors could not praise them enough. So Well Done!

This morning I have been into a number of lessons and was very impressed by a Year 7 English group studying A Christmas Carol, they answered some quite difficult questions with real understanding and I was very complimentary both with the group and the teacher. Likewise, I saw some excellent Year 8 Maths work and again praised the young people for their hard work and effort. The difference I am seeing in young people taking responsibility for their learning and behaviour has been very encouraging and to see this in practice in the classrooms this week has been just great.

I hope that you all have a restful weekend, no doubt Christmas shopping and decoration is now looming large and I wish you all the best as we move through these next few weeks.

With kind regards

Mrs Helen Mackenzie OBE

# Important Notices

- **Forthcoming Events**

**Monday 26<sup>th</sup> November** – Blackpool Gazette Education Awards – we are nominated in the Career Aspiration category

**Tuesday 27<sup>th</sup> November** – Lost property on display outside reception at break time for pupils

**Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> November** – Presentation Evening for last year's Year 11- 6.30pm at The Village Hotel Blackpool

**Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> December** – Food for All Collection supporting the Blackpool Food Partnership

**Friday 7<sup>th</sup> December** – The Community Tree Lights Switch on Event 4.30-6.30pm at the Old Library Community Centre

**Monday 10<sup>th</sup> December** – Winter Warmth Collection supporting StreetLife

**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

## **Parent Evening Dates**

Please note the following dates for forthcoming parent's evenings so that you can update your calendars!

Year 11 Parents evening Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> January 4.00-7.00pm

Year 10 Parents evening Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> January 4.00-7.00pm

Year 9 Parents evening Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> February 4.00-7.00pm

Year 8 Parents evening Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> February 4.00-7.00pm

Year 7 Parents evening Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> May 4.00-7.00pm

- **Festive Winter Gift Programme**

Please see the attached letter with details of all the events and activities that will bring our community together in acts of kindness and charitable giving.

- **British Army Presentation**

The British Army came in on Tuesday afternoon to present to the whole of Year 10. They gave a 30-minute presentation aimed at explaining many of the tasks that they get up to on a daily basis. Beyond the obvious, they were able to talk about helping in flood affected areas to talking about jobs and sporting opportunities within the Army. The presentation was followed by a question and answer session, in which the Year 10's came up with some fantastic questions.

- **Leadership Event**

On Wednesday we have group of Year 11 pupils going to a Leadership event at Blackpool Sixth Form College. This is an opportunity for them to hear about some of the ways Blackpool Sixth Form support students in applying to some of the top universities in this country (and in the US).

- **Young Enterprise**

We have a small group of Year 10 pupils running a Young Enterprise company. They have spent a number of weeks working on developing the company and products to sell. They will have a number of products before Christmas, so get ready to spend!

2018/19 Term Dates and Holidays	
<b>21 DEC</b>	Academy closes for the Christmas Break at 12.30pm
<b>7 JAN</b>	Academy open for all pupils
<b>15 FEB</b>	Academy closes for half term
<b>25 FEB</b>	Academy open for all pupils
<b>5 APR</b>	Academy closes for the Easter Break
<b>23 APR</b>	Academy open for all pupils



### 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)