

Dear Parents and Carers,

I would like to start by thanking all of you who took the time to fill out the parental survey towards the end of last term. Your views are important to us and we are already making some changes to the Academy.

Progress Reviews

There was a strong feeling expressed within the comments that the Community Academic Review Day (CARD) is not providing enough information on student progress and that additional parent consultations would be a better way forward. Accordingly, the Academy has cancelled the remaining CARD days for this year, 15th March and 29th June, and we will now focus upon ensuring that parental meetings with teaching staff provide a clear focus for you both on how your child is progressing and the next steps in their learning. The CARD days will therefore return to being normal teaching days at the Academy.

Communication

The clarity and consistency of communication was also highlighted. We would like to review these methods to ensure that our communication is as effective as it can be. We will soon be sending a brief survey on communication to seek your views.

Lunches

School lunch was mentioned by a number of parents. I'd like you to know that service has been further refined and the queues for both hot and cold service are now completed within 15 minutes. We have also made some changes to the cold servery's menu to reflect feedback from students.

After School Clubs

Some parents have also requested that their child be able to stay on selected days after 3.45pm to attend specific clubs or societies. I can confirm that we are now able to accommodate this and students should approach their House team to organise. If your child is currently staying until 5pm every day and you wish to change that arrangement, you should - in the first instance - also approach the House team.

Ready - Respectful - Safe

I am pleased to be able to report that since January the new behaviour strategies are having clear positive impacts. We have instituted a one-way system, there has been an increase in positive rewards being issued and hot chocolate Fridays with the Head are proving to be a popular way of acknowledging pupils who have exemplified being ready to learn, respectful and safe. Sanctions, of course, remain in place. Please view the Academy's Behaviour Policy on the school website and don't hesitate to contact me or my office if you have questions about this or any other Academy policy.

Buses

Buses continue to be a source of concern. As you may know from the local media, this is due to Local Authority funding cuts and is not under the control of the Academy. That said, Trust colleagues and I have met with Stagecoach twice and have secured a larger service for the Hawkinge route. We continue to lobby Stagecoach to adapt service to meet the Academy's needs and we have now also brought the matter to the attention of the local MP.

Parent Governors

Our Trust, Turner Schools, wrote to all families seeking applications for two roles as parent governors. The deadline for applications was 25th January, but due to few expressions of interest we have extended the deadline to 9th February. Further information can be found here www.folkestoneacademy.com/uploads/lettershome/2_141_folkestone-academy-parent-governor-elections-jan-18.pdf.

Parent governors at Turner Schools have a vital role to play in helping leadership and management continually improve schools.

Finally, I am pleased to report that Year 11 mock exams have been completed very well by the students showing excellent conduct and recognising their importance.

The team and I wish you all a successful year and look forward to working with you in partnership in the coming months.

Yours faithfully,



Andrew Milliken,
Head of School.