

July 2018

Dear Parents and Carers,

It was good to meet so many of you at the information sessions we ran over the last couple of weeks – it was excellent to have your feedback and questions on the changes we are planning for September. I will be running further information sessions for parents in the first week of the new year, with a focus on the implementation of our revised behaviour policy (see below). I will notify you of the dates and times of these in the new year.

Please find below a summary of the changes for the new year, and a few further details to ensure we are all ready for September.

Academy Day – timings

The timings for the Academy day are as below. Please note there will be a consistent end time during the week including Wednesday. After school activities will run every day EXCEPT Wednesday.

Activity	Time
School Opens	08:15 Free breakfast available for all pupils Morning activity programme
Lessons begin	09:00 All pupils to be in lessons ready to learn by 9am
Lessons end (Sixth Form)	15:00 14.00 (if students do not have a last period lesson)
After School Activities & homework club (not Wednesday) and Sport Academy students	Until 16:30 or 17:00 depending on the day/activity

Term Dates

Term 1:

Wednesday 5 th September	First day for year 7
Thursday 6 th September	First day for years 8 & 11
Friday 7 th September	First day for year 9 & 10
Monday 10 th September	First day for years 12 & 13

Please note we are also making an amendment to the 2019 Term 6 dates. The finish date will now be Friday 19th July 2019 (with the 22nd and 23rd July 2019 becoming Staff training days).

Academy Passport

Each student will be provided with an Academy Passport in September – this will include important information such as timetable, key dates and contacts. Pupils will be required to have this every day and it will be pocket sized, to sit in blazer pockets.

Homework

In order to prepare students for their GCSEs we will be issuing homework that will equip your sons and daughters with the study and revision skills they will need in the future.

The focus will be on factual learning and will support classwork. A supervised homework club will run four days a week at the Academy all students are welcome to attend.

Year Groups

We are moving from the House system to year groups. Students will continue to be well supported and they will be introduced to their Year Teams between now and the end of this term and the beginning of the new academic year.

Key Stage Leads:

Key Stage 3 Mrs R Wood

Key Stage 4 Mrs J Patchai

Key Stage 5 Mr S Himbury

YEAR GROUP	HEAD OF YEAR	PROGRESS LEADER
Year 7	Miss L McLaughlin	Mrs N Houston
Year 8	Mr J Speed	Mrs K Smith
Year 9	Mr J Platts	Mr K Moore
Year 10	Mr K Cahill	Miss H O'Dwyer
Year 11	Miss P Horsford	Mrs T Canter
	DEPUTY HEAD OF KS5	PROGRESS LEADER
Key Stage 5	Mr P Heaton	Mrs S Bezuidenhout

All students will also be allocated to one of the four communities which will be used for in-school competitions and charity events.

Senior Leadership Team

I am pleased to confirm the Secondary Senior Leadership Team for the new academic year, as follows:

Head of School, Secondary	Mr Wesley Carroll
Vice Principal	Mr S Shaw
Associate Vice Principal	Miss V Reddecliffe
Assistant Principal	Mr R Cave
Assistant Principal	Mr C Fountain
Assistant Principal	Mrs J Harris
Assistant Principal	Mrs A Monkley
Assistant Principal	Mr J Swash

In addition, with Mr Boxall retiring, additional leadership will be provided by Mr Jason Feldwick as Consultant Executive Principal, on a part-time basis.

Sixth Form

The Sixth Form will be relocating back to the main site in September. During the summer we will install eight further classrooms on site and carry out further work to ensure that there is plenty of room for all students. The specialist rooms and equipment will also be transferred to the main site.

It is going to be great to have our Sixth Formers as role models to the younger students and as such they will be required to wear professional dress. If your child is in the Sixth Form, we will write separately about the uniform code.

Behaviour Policy

Our ambition is to ensure disruption-free learning in classrooms while also supporting all children to fulfil their potential by offering additional support where needed. The new policy can be found online: www.folkestoneacademy.com/uploads/asset_file/3_4174_behaviour-policy-folkestone-academy-final.pdf

This policy sets out very clear boundaries and has high expectations for all students and I trust that as parents you will support the Academy in ensuring that learning and progress is at the heart of all we do.

Attendance

In order to succeed at school it is essential for students to maintain excellent attendance. Academy pupils attending 95% or more (which means only 8 days off school a year) achieve excellent GCSE results. To ensure more children succeed, from September we will introduce a new tracking system to monitor attendance; this will enable us to recognise and reward improvement in students' attendance on a weekly basis and to spot a drop in attendance early. Please ensure all non-emergency medical and dental appointments are made in the holidays.

Please visit our website: www.folkestoneacademy.com/secondary/1001/attendance-and-punctuality

Entrance to the Academy

From September 2018 all students will enter the Academy by the main gate on Lucy Avenue. This is to ensure that every student is met personally, and welcomed to the Academy day, and to also ensure that they are equipped for the day's learning.

Catering

Our new caterer is keen to make sure that every student has a healthy lunch that they like. Following the volume of complaints, and to ensure we are following Department for Education school meal regulations, sandwiches will not be on offer at lunch from September. Four hot choices, and cold choices including salad, soup and wraps will be available.

Can I also remind you that fizzy drinks, including energy drinks of any sort, are not allowed in the Academy. Any fizzy drinks will be confiscated and disposed of.

Uniform

Please look at the uniform requirements outlined on the website and in the Behaviour Policy. The purpose of uniform is to ensure all students are equal at school, and showing respect for school/ready to learn. Students not appropriately dressed may be sent home to change.

Phones/tablets/smart watches/headphones and other electronic devices

A reminder that, in line with the agreements signed by all parents, all electronic devices, phones and smart watches must be kept in bags whilst students are at school. If a device is seen it will be confiscated, put in the safe on reception, and collected by a parent or carer after 15.30. We remind you that the Academy is not liable for devices brought in to school, and your sons and daughters do so at their own risk.

Parents, Staff and Friends Association

The Academy is committed to working closely with the community. If you are interested in volunteering to be part of a Parents, Staff and Friends Association for the Academy please contact Miss Belsey on communications@folkestoneacademy.com.

I do hope you and your family have a lovely summer break and I look forward to seeing you and your children in September. Please do contact us on xxx if you have any further queries in the meantime.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Wesley Carroll', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Wesley Carroll
Head of School