



6 September 2017

Dear Parents and Carers

Firstly, may I welcome you all back to the start of a new school year! I am delighted to see everyone again and I have been equally pleased to welcome our impeccably presented new Year 7 students to the John Flamsteed family.

We start the new academic year on a real high and our examination results in August confirmed that our school drive to raise standards even further continues to pay dividends; our Year 11 students achieved the highest number of top A* and new Grade 9 grades at GCSE than ever before with particular successes in Mathematics, English, Science, Geography and German at this level. This has served to further energise all of our efforts to make even greater steps forward this coming year.

I have attached a version of our whole school improvement plan in order for you to understand my vision and where I am trying to lead the school. Hopefully, this will enable you to see where I would like to make progress this year. Of particular note, is an item that refers to 'scholarly behaviours' which is something you could possibly help me with?

In order that our students become more 'scholarly' (serious about their studies) they of course, need to understand what is meant by this. Please refer to the table below; I would be grateful if you could have a discussion with your child regarding which of these behaviours come naturally to them at school. I hope that by the end of the year we will see fewer students reliant upon their teachers and more students who display an eagerness and hunger to stretch themselves onto the next stage in their learning. If it helps, I like to think of Hermione Granger in the Hogwarts library – she is certainly scholarly!

A 'scholarly' student ...	My child?
...spends time pondering about ideas and problems	
...saves ideas and unfinished work and comes back to them	
...demonstrates perseverance by sticking to a task	
...exercises their minds by trying challenging tasks	
...takes academic risks and are not afraid to make a mistake in pursuit of an answer	
...looks at many and varied resources	
...willingly participates in lessons	
...is curious and asks thoughtful questions	

Year 11

Our Year 11s are more than half way through their GCSE courses which are, as most of us now know, much more challenging than previous GCSEs that have gone before them. Please be aware that two hours extra study, five nights a week is the minimum expectation for study outside of lessons. A silent study room will be made available, shortly, for Year 11 students for use during the lunchtime.



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Of course, we do not always get things right and if you have any concerns as the school year develops, please do not hesitate to contact us. Student Services will ensure that your concern is dealt with swiftly or at least directed to the right person. Please may I also remind new parents and carers that I run a Headteacher's clinic every Monday evening from 3.30-5pm. Should you wish to make an appointment please contact reception or Jenny Stephenson (stephensonj@jfcs.org.uk).

Finally, may I invite you to attend our parent and carer Information Evening held on **Tuesday 19 September from 7.00pm-8.00pm** in the dining hall where you will have the opportunity to meet the school's Senior Leadership Team and to hear all about our forthcoming plans for this academic year. Please confirm your attendance at the following email address: bradleyd@jfcs.org.uk.

I look forward to seeing you then.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'L J Walton'.

Mrs L J Walton
Headteacher

JOHN FLAMSTEED COMMUNITY SCHOOL

WHOLE SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT PLAN 2017/18 FOR PARENTS AND CARERS

Ofsted Descriptor	School Priority Statement for parents/carers
Overall effectiveness	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ We wish to move from an Ofsted 'Good' to 'Outstanding' ➤ We will continue to improve examination results for all students, especially in English, Computing and Drama so that these are at least as good as our highest performing subjects (Geography, Science, German and Mathematics). ➤ We will ensure that more able students will be given the opportunity to stretch their learning in every lesson so that these students are challenged every day. ➤ We will ensure that students who need extra help in their learning are well supported throughout the curriculum so that they achieve at least as well as their peers. ➤ We will ensure that every student can thrive academically at school, regardless of their background.
Leadership and Management	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Senior and middle leaders (Heads of Departments and Heads of Year) will lead the school and create a culture of excellence together along with more experienced teachers. ➤ Leaders in the school will get better at developing teaching in the school so that every lesson engages and stretches every child.
Outcomes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ We will ensure that teaching is outstanding so that substantial progress for all students in all subjects and in all year groups is achieved. ➤ We will set even more ambitious targets for students so that they can be challenged to see if they can exceed expectations. ➤ We will like
Teaching, Learning and Assessment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ We will remain committed to ensuring that all teaching is excellent by following the Accelerated Learning framework for all lessons. ➤ The development of teaching will be supported by the implementation of new homework and marking policy so that we become even better classroom practitioners. ➤ We will expect all students to extend their writing in every subject. ➤ We will expect spelling and punctuation to improve for every student throughout the school.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ The Homework Hub will contribute to progress made out of school hours and will help parents and carers to support their children in their learning.
<p>Personal development, behaviour and welfare</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Students will be taught how to take greater responsibility for their own progress in each subject. We will encourage students to become independent learners by encouraging them to exhibit 'scholarly behaviours'. ➤ We will look for exemplary attitudes to learning through the presentation of written work, our smart uniform and impeccable behaviour, where the use of good manners underpin all that we do. ➤ We will help more students become involved in the School's charity work and the vInspired scheme. ➤ We will expect attendance to be at least 97% for every student (this does not include serious or sustained illness/medical treatment). ➤ We will expect every student to be in school for 8.35am in time for the 8.40am start. ➤ We will continue to develop a new rewards system so that a positive culture praise permeates the school.

Mrs Walton
Headteacher
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