

4 September 2018

Dear Parents and Carers

I hope that you have had a lovely summer and that you and your families have had some time to rest and to recharge. May I take this opportunity to extend a warm welcome our new Year 7 parents and carers. I do hope that your son or daughter settles very quickly into their new school. Please do contact us without delay if you have any concerns at all, however seemingly small they may seem.

Examination Results 2018

I am delighted to report that our GCSE examination results for 2018 were very pleasing, beating all previous school attainment and progress records for the fourth consecutive year. I was so very proud of how our Year 11 students performed especially given the new style GCSEs which are solely examination based with more challenging content. When our final data is published by the Department for Education, I anticipate that our progress measure will be positive – indicating that students who go to our school make greater progress, on average, than expected. I was particularly pleased to see such excellent performances in our Maths, English, Science and Humanities departments, with in excess of 74% of our students gaining a grade 4-9 in Maths and English. I was also delighted to note the number of the higher grades 7-9 being awarded across a range of subjects. Examination performances at this highest level reflect the hard work and commitment that our students show all the way from Year 7 to the end of their GCSE journey coupled with the skill and tenacity of our teachers. Of course, our partnership with our parents and carers is a central element of our students' success and I hope that many more of you will feel able to get involved with your child's school as the next academic year progresses.

'Students in the Driving Seat'

Ensuring that students drive their own learning is a key feature of a whole school improvement plan for this coming academic year. I believe that the more responsibility that students take for not only their own learning but also with running their school, the better student outcomes will become. Expect to see your son and/or daughter become more independent in their learning as teachers change their planning to ensure that students have a more problem solving and enquiry based curriculum. Your support with this especially with homework tasks would be most welcome.

Dates for your Diary

Forthcoming dates for the next half-term that may be of interest to you:

Wednesday 12 September

Parent and Carer Information Evening – 7pm – Drama Suite

You are all most warmly invited to meet the school's senior leadership team as we take you through this coming year's whole school improvement plan.

Thursday 20 September

Y5/Y6 Open Day (bookable tours in the morning) and evening events from 7pm.

Friday 21 September

INSET day – no school for students

Thursday 27 September

Our annual rewards evening from 7pm. By invitation.

Thursday 4 October – 6pm – Drama Suite

Year 11 Post 16 Information Evening for students considering A-level choices.

Thursday 11 October – 6pm – Dining Hall

Parent and carer information evening – Staying Safe

Friday 12 October

Y11 will be issued with GCSE projections and effort grades to take home.

Thursday 18 October – from 4pm

Year 7 ‘settling in’ parent/carer evening.

A chance for parents and carers to meet with the Head of Year 7 and her tutor team.

Wednesday 24 October – 7pm – Drama Suite

Year 10 GCSE information evening with a focus on achieving grades 7-9.

Friday 26 October

Years 7-10 will be issued with a progress and effort grade for the first half-term to take home.

29 October to 2 November – Half-term break

Finally, please remember that I run a ‘Headteacher’s Clinic’ every Monday from 4pm. Please contact Mrs Stephenson stephensonj@jfcs.org.uk to book an appointment with me.

I look forward to another highly successful year at our high performing and ambitious school where we promise to ensure that every child that comes into our care will achieve the very best preparation for highly successful adult lives. I hope that you and your child/children have a wonderful year ahead of you.

Yours sincerely



L J Walton
Headteacher