

Dear Parents

General Letter Number 19

9th September 2016

As we start a new academic year I wish to welcome back all students and their families, especially the 258 children that have joined us in year 7 this September. This fortnightly newsletter is the main communication with home and will be distributed by email as well as being placed on the school website. Anybody requiring a hard copy should contact the school office.

Summer Examination Results 2016

I am delighted to be able to report to you an impressive improvement in examination results. The Year 13 students who completed their studies in August, had an average points per entry of 219. This represents an increase from 197 in 2015. The associated progress measures are also very positive. These excellent results have seen most students going to their university of choice. In addition we have an increasing number of students who are leaving school to do level 3 apprenticeships or entering the workplace.

At GCSE, against a backdrop where results nationally saw a decline of over 2%, we saw our results increase by just over 9%. As Government measures change it is hard to compare data with previous years. However, for the most commonly used measure, our 5A*-C with English and Maths figure is 56.1%, up from 47% in 2015. This impressive increase is also reflected in the progress measures associated with GCSE, meaning many students achieved their target grades. Remarkably this represents the best results that the school, in its various guises, has achieved since this measure was introduced over 12 years ago. As a consequence we have 140 students enrolled into Year 12 to begin their Sixth Form studies with us. For those students who have left us, most have also moved on to their first choice of college or apprenticeship.

These fantastic results are a tribute of the hard work put in by staff and students. Nor would they be achieved without great support from home. On behalf of Mrs Kitson, Governors and the Senior Leadership of the school, I wish to pass on my congratulations to all involved and best wishes for whatever pathway the students have decided to follow.

At this point last year 32 new teaching staff, including myself, joined the academy. This September we have just 4 new staff, which I feel is another positive sign in maintaining stability and improving the quality of teaching and learning. The new staff are: Mr Hillman (Science), Miss Wainwright (Geography), Mr Meade (Humanities) and Miss Ahmed (Re & Sociology).

In addition I am delighted to inform you that Mrs Fuller had a baby boy during the summer holiday. Mr Simpson has joined us from Abbey Grange for a year on secondment as Assistant Principal, to cover her maternity leave.

Mr Truelove has joined the Pastoral Team as Head of Delphinus House. He brings a wealth of experience to the role and is an excellent addition to our pastoral support.

Term Dates 2016-17

Autumn term 2016

Training Day Monday 5 September (staff only)
Open Tuesday 6 September
(Open for Years 7, 11 & 12 only)
Close Friday 21 October **68**

Open Monday 31 October
Training Day Tuesday 22nd November (staff only)
Close Friday 16 December

Spring term 2017

Open Tuesday 3 January 2017
Close Friday 17 February

Open Monday 27 February
Close Friday 7 April **64**

Summer term 2017

May Day

Open Monday 24 April
Closed Monday 1 May
Close Friday 26 May **59**

Open Monday 5 June
Close Friday 21st July
Training Day Monday 24th July
Training Day Tuesday 25 July

191 days

*One additional Training Day to be identified



Friends of LA Meeting dates

These have been set for this school year, the meetings start at 6pm and are as follows:

- Monday 12th September 2016
- Monday 7th November 2016
- Monday 9th January 2017
- Monday 6th March 2017
- Monday 8th May 2017
- Monday 12th June 2017

All parents are automatically members and we would encourage you to become involved and support the school.

ParentPay

A big thank you for setting up on our new online cashless payment system **ParentPay** over the holidays. If you have any problems, there is a fantastic help facility on their website where they help you directly.

If you have not yet set this up we would appreciate it if you could do this as soon possible. If you have lost the letter with your activation code please email contactus@lightcliffeacademy.co.uk giving us your child's name and year group and we will email the information back to you.

The Sixth Form at Lightcliffe - A Bright Start, a Bright Future

This week we have welcomed a record number of students into the sixth form at Lightcliffe Academy. 140 students have joined our year 12 and they have been involved in an exciting and inspiring induction programme.

We have had Richard McCann visit us to tell us all about his inspirational life story in which he has overcome many obstacles to become a great success. We have had the NCS deliver a full day of events to help our students overcome their own fears and develop team spirit. Finally, all 140 students have visited Huddersfield to allow students a taste of university life and to see what courses are available, hopefully allowing them to have goals from the start of their sixth form studies. They will commence formal lessons on Monday.

The students have been fantastic and embraced everything they have been part of and it bodes well for a successful two years of study in the sixth form.

Data Collection

Y8-11 data collection sheets will be coming home shortly, please return these within the week received to ensure all your details are correct on the school database, especially any changes to email or mobile phone numbers.

Milk Online Student Planner

We are just finalising student/parent logins and hope to issue them over the course of next week. In the meantime all students have been issued with a paper planner/organiser. The paper planner/organiser will contain target, progress and achievement pages, a sporting activities consent form, timetables and day-to-day organiser pages.

Milk have now released a parent app which you can download from [here](#). Through Milk, parents will be able to see all homework that is set by class teachers along with live attendance and punctuality data. Parents will also be able to see behaviour points. As we progress into the Autumn/Winter term, we will also be looking at linking positive behaviour/achievements into Milk.

Teachers will set homework through Milk which will then alert students on their mobile device when they get home or when they check the Milk website/app which they should be doing every night.

Through the Milk website/app, students will be able to see all homework that is set from every subject and will have to use Milk to say when they've completed the homework as well as answering one simple question online, for feedback, to let the teacher know how they found it. This will help teachers to be able to target support. Only the teacher will be able to view this individual feedback.

If you require any further information please contact:

-Nick Collins
Assistant Principal
Lightcliffe Academy
Email: ncollins@lightcliffeacademy.co.uk

Alastair Marshall
Head of Digital Services
Abbey Multi Academy Trust
Email: alastair.marshall@abbeytrust.org

Open Water

We are aware that some children of secondary school age have been swimming in local lakes and reservoirs. In their excitement we are concerned that they do not appreciate the extreme dangers swimming in open water can present.

While we are unsure if any of our students are involved, we will be raising this issue via form time and assemblies and would ask you to do the same at home.

Students have returned to school in a very positive manner and I am confident we can build on the success of last year.

Regards



Thomas Rothwell
Principal