

Frederick Gough School

A specialist language college

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Dear Parent

As term closes I would like to inform you of a number of things relevant to both this term and the next.

Timings for the end of term.

As happens at the end of every year, school will finish at 14.20pm after a tutor period during lesson 4 and the bus companies will be contacted to arrive at 14.25pm. The last day of school for pupils is 17 July because of two INSET days which have been taken on 21 and 22 July. If any parents have problems with school finishing at this time I would be grateful if they contacted me at school.

Timings for the beginning of the school year 2009 / 10

The first day of the autumn term 2009 is Thursday 3 September. Year 7 pupils will arrive at 8.45am and meet in the quad for an assembly at 9.00am, year 8 - 9 pupils will arrive at 9.30am and year 10 - 11 will arrive at 10.00am. This is earlier for the year 8 - 11 pupils than previous years because we intend to launch an exciting new initiative called 'OPTIMUM' with all of our pupils on this morning.

INSET days for 2009 / 10

The two additional INSET days for 2009 / 10 academic year are Friday 18 December 2009 and Monday 22 December 2009.

Optimum

Our tremendous success in last year's GCSE examinations has given us the opportunity to look further beyond our academic curriculum to identify further ways to ensure that pupils from Frederick Gough are given every opportunity to succeed beyond school and stand out from the rest. We have identified three areas that we would like to focus, develop and celebrate across the whole school. These are:

- Employability skills
- Employability qualities
- Challenges

The skills are generic to employers that ensure people can work well in the world of work. Examples of these skills are the ability to work in a team, develop independent enquiry skills, develop our ability to think creatively etc. We develop these skills in most of the lessons we deliver but do not give our students the opportunity to reflect and improve in these areas.



All employers look for employability qualities such as attendance, punctuality, reliability, trustworthiness etc. and we will create opportunities for pupils to reflect on their readiness for work in these areas and provide support for them to ensure that they can 'sell' themselves for the next stage in their careers.

The challenges are possibly the most exciting aspect of 'Optimum'. We will be encouraging pupils to come out of their comfort zones and set themselves three challenges, two personal and one community, to allow pupils to push themselves and be able to celebrate their achievements at both home and school.

Details of 'Optimum' will be laid out in the planner and your child should be able to talk about it in more detail with you after their first day in the new term. Please support your child when discussing their challenges for the forthcoming year and when they reflect on their employability skills and qualities in academic tutorials.

House System

For pastoral care, communication and Information Advice and Guidance, we believe that the current year group and form based system is the most effective structure for delivery. However, we do want to encourage cross year participation and increase involvement in extra curricular activity and fund raising. From September 2009 every child will be placed in a house. The names and colours for the houses are as follows:

- Blue: Harrison
- Green: Newton
- Red: Tennyson
- Yellow: Wesley

Uniform

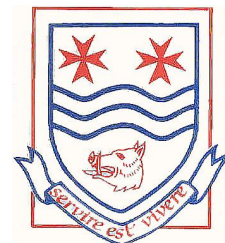
Uniformity gives us identity as a school, reduces instances of bullying and has a significant impact on school behaviour. During this term there has been an increase in the number of pupils trying to exploit the 'grey' areas in our uniform policy. I know that trying to keep to our policy is difficult when certain shoe outlets try and sell trainer / shoes as school shoes but as new purchases will be made during the summer holidays I am keen to remind you of particular aspects regarding our uniform policy:

Black shoes must be worn. Boots and trainers are not allowed and footwear must be ALL black without any other markings. Piercings beyond one set of studs in the ear are not allowed. Extreme hairstyles i.e. extreme colouring beyond subtle highlighting, shaved symbols or Mohicans are not allowed. Girls' blouses must cover their midriff and must have top buttons.

We have listened to the school council and adapted our uniform to meet their requests (e.g. blouses and cardigans being allowed) but it is essential that our uniform policy is adhered to. Failure to do so will result in pupils being required to change their uniform before they are allowed into mainstream classes.

Staff Changes

We bid farewell to Chris Roche, Assistant Headteacher and extremely talented Maths teacher. We will also be saying goodbye to Andrew Roe who has covered Rachel Douthwaite's maternity leave and is moving on to continue his career elsewhere. On behalf of the staff and pupils I would like to thank them both for their contribution to Frederick Gough School.



Flamingo Land

Our positive behaviour policy reward day will be at Flamingo Land again. The day we have booked is the 17 September and the subsidised cost will be around £17.00. As you will be aware, organising a trip for over a thousand staff and students is a difficult task. There will be one morning when all of the money will be collected and that will be on 7 September, the first Monday morning back after the summer holidays.

Key dates for next term

Thursday 3 September	Pupils return
Wednesday 16 September	Y11 Travel & Tourism trip to Alton Towers
Thursday 17 September	Flamingo Land trip
Friday 18 September	Y10 BTec science trip
Wednesday 30 September	Open Evening (School closes 2.20pm)
Thursday 1 October	Open Day
Friday 2 October	Y10 BTec science trip
Wednesday 7 October	Y10 Travel & Tourism trip to York
Thursday 8 October (evening)	English trip to Grimsby Auditorium to see 'Blood Brothers' North Lindsey College Open Evening 5 - 8pm
Friday 23-28 October	Paris trip
Friday 6 November	Non-uniform day
Monday 9 November	Y11 English GCSE
Tuesday 10 November	Presentation Evening
Wednesday 11 November	John Leggott College Open Evening
Thursday 12 November	Y11 English GCSE
Monday 30 November	Y11 GCSE Mock Speaking tests begin
Tuesday 8 December	Clothes Show trip
Wednesday 9 December	Christmas concert – 7pm
Monday 14-15 December	Y11 Mock Art exam Y10 Science University trip
Tuesday 15 December	Old Folks' Party
Friday 18 December	Teacher Training Day, school closes for half term

I wish you all a good summer holiday and look forward to another successful year starting in September.

Yours sincerely

B Lawrance
Headteacher