

30 September 2011

Frederick Gough School

A specialist language college

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Dear Parents / Guardians

Now that we are settled into the new school year I have attached some information that you may find useful.

GCSE Results

Another successful set of results, mark and reward a huge effort by all involved for last year's Yr 11 students. We continue to work around our top 25% targets for 5A*-C, 5A*-C including English and Maths and 5A*-G headline figures and it continues to instil belief in the students currently at school who have their GCSEs to do.

A huge thank you goes out to all of the staff, parents and all pupils who helped us achieve this and we are aiming even higher for our current year 11.

BSF

We are in the process of submitting an affordable plan to take us through stage 1 of the BSF process. I started work on this a long time ago and since then the project and staff have changed considerably. This, combined with a change in government and a recession creates a mixture of feelings ranging from frustrated to fortunate but we will be pleased to have a smart school fit for purpose that accommodates our children in a more comfortable and inspirational setting.

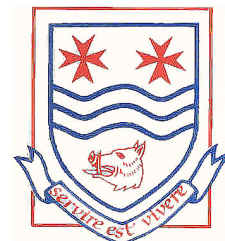
Once we pass through stage 1 we will be able to consult more widely with staff, pupils and parents.

Uniform

Thank you for supporting the school with our tightened policy on uniform. Our request made at the end of the summer term to see all students in black only leather shoes has caused confusion with some because of the range of shoes on offer now in shops and I am very grateful to you all for working with us. I strongly believe that uniformity helps to create a cultural identity for students and see general behaviour improve every year that we implement our code more clearly. Walking around the school this year is no exception.

Flamingo Land

Thanks go again to Mr Harmer and all of the staff who organised another highly successful trip to reward students who succeeded in our positive behaviour policy. Over 1000 people from the school attended, had a very enjoyable day and very luckily were not rained on! Our photo display of the day will be up in the foyer later on this term.



Parental access to your child's records over the internet

We now have the facility whereby parents can access the relevant page from our database to look at up to date attendance and behavioural data as well as the last relevant report. A letter giving instructions on how to access this, along with a username and password will be given out in the near future for year 8-11 pupils. Year 7 will receive theirs later in the term.

Staff Changes

We welcome the following staff to the school and hope they enjoy their time at Frederick Gough:

Mrs Baines (Curriculum Leader Music)
Mrs Stevenson (English teacher)
Ms Wray (English teacher)
Mrs Jeffries (Maths teacher)
Mrs Harding (Curriculum Leader for French)
Mrs Doyle (History and English teacher)
Mr Clayton (History teacher)

Ms Godfrey (maths) has returned as Mrs Carter following her wedding over the summer.

OPTIMUM

Optimum continues to have impact at Frederick Gough. In your child's planner you will see that they will set themselves 3 challenges this term and we ask that when set, you continue to support your child throughout the year in achieving them. For every challenge completed, pupils will receive a badge and many of the challenges will be celebrated at the end of the year as they were last year.

We also aim to create stronger reference to the skills and qualities in pupils' lessons throughout the year.

Open Evening

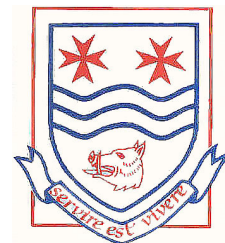
Open Evening for the parents of Year 6 pupils will be held on Wednesday 5 October. To prepare for the evening we will be closing school at 2.20pm on that day. We will contact the bus company to make necessary arrangements, however the East Butterwick bus will run as normal and will arrive at 3.25pm. These pupils can make alternative arrangements, or be supervised in the small hall until the bus arrives. Should any parent require their child to stay until 3.25pm please contact the school office.

Privacy Notice

A copy of our privacy notice is available on the school website.

Medicine Policy

A reminder that we now require written confirmation on new forms to allow us to give your child any medicines on school premises, this includes paracetamol. If you have already given us written permission for current prescribed medication we will contact you and give you a copy of the form. Copies of these forms can also be found on our website.



Holiday Entitlement During Term Time

This is another reminder to parents that the guidelines for holiday entitlement have changed. Holidays will only be authorised during term time in exceptional circumstances and when attendance is above 94%. No holidays will be authorised during term time for Year 11 students.

Local authority advice as to what constitutes an exceptional circumstance can be obtained from the school.

If you are unsure whether a holiday will be authorised I strongly recommend that you contact either Mrs Crampton or Mr Stiles at school. Unauthorised holiday time will result in the Education Welfare Service imposing financial penalties on parents based on the number of children and parents involved.

For those of you planning well in advance, the holiday dates for 2011/12 are:

Autumn half term – Close 21 October, re-open 31 October

Christmas – Close 16 December, re-open 4 January (19 and 20 December Disaggregated Staff Day, 3 January Staff Day)

Spring half term – Close 10 February, re-open 20 February

Easter holidays – Close 30 March, re-open 17 April (16 April Staff Day)

May Day – 7 May

Summer half term - Close 1 June, re-open 11 June

Summer holidays – Close 19 July, re-open 4 September

INSET day (staff training) reminders

A reminder that our INSET days will be on 3 January 2012, and 16 April 2012

Calendared events this term

CAT Tests date to be confirmed

5 Oct - Open Evening (School closes 2.20pm)

6 Oct – Open Day 10 and 11.15am

7 Oct - Y10 Travel & Tourism trip to York

14 Oct - Y7 (Yellow) PBL trip to Cresswell Craggs

17 Oct – Y10/11 BTec Drama assessments all week

18 Oct – Y8 immunisations and catch-ups

19 Oct – Y11 Paris visit leaves (returns 24 October)

20 Oct – Y7/8 Halloween Disco

21 Oct – Optimum Smart Challenges set

21 Oct – School closes for half term. Pupils return to school 31 October

24 Oct – Belgium/French Battlefields trip leaves

4 Nov – Non-uniform Day for Children in Need

7 Nov – Y11 English resits (prov)

8 Nov – Presentation Evening

15 Nov – PTA AGM 6pm

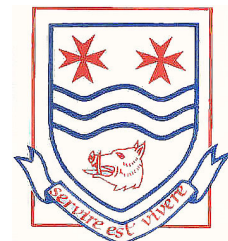
16 Nov – Y8 History visit to Royal Armouries

25 Nov – Y7 Science visit to the 'Deep'

5 Dec – Y10 Yellow/Blue maths mock exam

6 Dec – Y11 Yellow/Green pathway mock exam

6 Dec – Clothes Show for Textile students (prov)



7 Dec – Christmas Concert 7.15pm in the hall
8 Dec – Y10 Yellow/Green pathway maths mock
13 Dec - Old Folks Party/Visits
15 Dec – BTec Christmas Show (exam) in hall
16 Dec – School closes to pupils for Christmas. Pupils return to school 4 January 2012

Should you still have questions regarding the term or the school year ahead, please do not hesitate to contact us at school.

Yours sincerely

B Lawrance
Headteacher