



16th June 2015

Dear Parent/Carer,

With only 5 weeks of the school year remaining I feel it is important to further update you of our progress since my last newsletter. It seems incredible that we have nearly completed our first full year as the new Blackpool Aspire Academy. This time last year we were getting ready to start our new journey together; and what a fantastic journey it has been so far. Obviously we have had some interesting times, especially in the opening months, but since the New Year progress has been rapid and sustained. To support this view we had a day visit from two members of the DfE Open Academies Team on 1st June to assess our progress since academisation. The draft report is very positive and encouraging, recognising the significant change in the school's culture, behaviour, safeguarding, teaching & learning and leadership as well as the supportive role FCAT plays. So many students enjoy coming to Aspire to learn, socialise and develop in a bustling, friendly yet firm learning environment, where they feel safe, are polite and respectful and ... smile!

As this term draws to a close there is considerable information you require to ensure you are 'up to speed' and ready for the start of the new academic year. The majority of our current Year 11's finished their last GCSE exams on Friday and left school in a joyful yet very sensible fashion. Considering they only merged together on 14th July last year, they have been a remarkable group of young people, the vast majority of whom have responded positively to every request and demand made of them. They now move onto taster courses at Blackpool 6th Form, with a remaining group finishing off Triple Science and Technology exams, before the final **Leavers Assembly on Friday 26 June at 2.00pm**. Do not forget that the **Year 11 Prom** takes place on Friday 10th July at the De Vere from 7.00pm to 11.30pm with the crucial **Exam Results Day on Thursday 20th August**. This will bring their school career to a successful conclusion. Everybody at Aspire wishes them every success with their exam results and future careers, and thank them for being such a 'special and memorable' year group.

Currently the rest of the school continues to speed along towards the end of term... but with a difference! In order to ensure there is no wasted or down time, and all students end the year up to date and ready to make significant progress in the Autumn half term, from Monday 15th June all Year Groups will become known and behave as the next year group upwards; for instance Year 7 will become Year 8, Year 8 become Year 9 and so on. They will also change Progress Leads, Progress Tutors and form rooms and be expected to adopt a more mature approach for each of the remaining **25 working days** to the end of term. We have some exciting events and activities planned for the majority of each year group as a reward for their commitment, involvement and resilience in

**Blackpool Aspire Academy, Bispham Road,
Blackpool FY2 0NH**
Principal: Mr. C. B. Simkins B.Ed, M.Ed, O.B.E.
Tel: (01253) 353155 Fax: (01253) 500397
Email: admin@aspire.blackpool.sch.uk
Web page: www.blackpoolaspireacademy.co.uk

Fylde Coast Academy Trust
Company Limited by Guarantee Number 8364709
Registered in England & Wales
Registered Office:
C/o Blackpool Sixth Form College, Blackpool Old Road
Blackpool FY3 7LR

supporting Aspire's new direction of travel. The new Year 11 will receive their new ties to mark their membership of the oldest year group, many will become prefects and a new Head Boy/Deputy Head Boy and new Head Girl/Deputy Head Girl will be chosen soon. As well as these important students helping us to run our new Academy a new **Student Parliament**, elected by the student body will also be in operation from September.

Other important events this term include the **Academy Achievement Evening on Wednesday 17th June** for the current Year 8's, 9's, 10's and 11's (old Y7, 8, 9 and 10) to celebrate their outstanding achievements this year; the new **Year 7 Intake Evening** on Thursday 25th June from 7pm to meet the 150 potential new Year 7's and their parents/carers (double the number of last year!) and **New Intake Day** on Monday 29th June when the 150 new Year 7's spend the day with us at Aspire, sampling what is in store for them from 7th September 2015.

To reinforce our new vision, ethos and culture we all need to **PAUSE** for a moment. **PAUSE** will become Aspire's new acronym, adopted from 15th June onwards. It represents:

Punctuality to school is essential. 1 minute late from September will lead to 1 hour detention the same night.

Attendance to school is non-negotiable. There are/will be plenty of rewards.

Uniform must be correct every day. **Black** shoes, blazers, ties etc. are essential.

Safe and Sensible Behaviour must be the norm so everyone is safe.

High **E**xpectations & Exam Performance are the keys to student success.

We expect all of our current students to accept, and respond positively to these **key** essentials to the new life at Aspire and for **all** parents and carers to support us.

Please do not forget that the school closes on **Friday 17th July at 1.20pm** and re-opens for the start of the new school year at **8.35am on Monday 7th September**. There will also be a **Summer Success Extravaganza** during the summer holidays from Monday 20th July to Friday 24th July for the current Year 7's (now Y8) and new Y7's from Monday 27th July to Friday 31st July. Finally **Aspire's New School Building** on Blackpool Old Road is making excellent progress and although it will not be ready for occupation on the 7th September we are optimistic that we can move into it during the October/November half term. As soon as we know further we shall inform you immediately of our relocation plans.

Yours sincerely

C B Simkins
Principal

Blackpool Aspire Academy, Bispham Road,
Blackpool FY2 0NH
Principal: Mr. C. B. Simkins B.Ed, M.Ed, O.B.E.
Tel: (01253) 353155 Fax: (01253) 500397
Email: admin@aspire.blackpool.sch.uk
Web page: www.blackpoolaspireacademy.co.uk

Fylde Coast Academy Trust
Company Limited by Guarantee Number 8364709
Registered in England & Wales
Registered Office:
C/o Blackpool Sixth Form College, Blackpool Old Road
Blackpool FY3 7LR