

16th June 2016

Dear Parent/Carer,

As the school year speeds along very quickly it is extremely important to keep you all up to date with information about the end of this term as well as the start of the next academic year. With only 5 weeks of this school year remaining you may be surprised to find there is a considerable amount of activity planned for all of our students as well as yourselves, so I trust you are encouraged to support or join in when you can.

Obviously the current 172 Year 11 students have been a priority over the past 2 weeks as the majority of their big final GCSE exams have taken place. There has been a fantastic response to these exams with many 'full houses' for the core subjects of English, Maths and Science exams which have been taken by all students. Most of these students will finish on this Friday 17th June, with a smaller group finishing off Triple Science, Technology and Dance exams next week. The final **Leavers Assembly is on Tuesday 28th June at 2.00pm** whilst the **Year 11 Prom** takes place on Thursday 7th July at the Village Hotel, Blackpool from 7.00pm to 11.30pm; the crucial **Exam Results Day is on Thursday, 25th August from 10.00am**. This will bring their formal school career to a successful conclusion, with all of them moving onto Blackpool 6th Form, Blackpool & The Fylde College, Myerscough College, other training providers as well as employment in a vast range of industries. Everybody at Aspire wishes them every success with these exam results and future careers, and thank them for being such a 'special and memorable' year group.

The rest of the students have now settled in well to their new school and its exciting environment and are ready for their next stage ... which is to move up a Year Group. We intend to use the same plan and process as last year. So 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 20th June** all year groups will become known and behave as the next year group upwards; for instances Year 7 will become Year 8, Year 8 become Year 9 and so on. They will also change Progress Leads, Form 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 want them to further 'buy into' our new direction of travel by 'acting up' as older students and set an example to the new Year 7's (at present Year 6's) who will each join us for an extended Transition Phase from next week too. The new Year 11's will receive their new ties in September to mark their membership of the oldest year group, many will be chosen as prefects and a **Head Boy/Deputy Head Boy** and **Head Girl/Deputy Head Girl** will also need to be selected. This will also provide an opportunity for other students to be elected as new members of our very important **Student Parliament**.

On **Thursday 23rd June at 7.00pm** it is our new **Year 7 Intake Evening** when we welcome the parents and carers of our 180 new Year 7 students; these students will form our biggest year group and this year for the first ever year this group is completely full!! Also over a 4 week period starting Tuesday 21st June we welcome all of the new Year 7 students (currently Year 6's) for 3 days each to enjoy our '**Secondary School Experience**' incorporating a full day visit to UCLAN (University of Central Lancashire), Preston to

experience 'life at University' on Monday 27th June 2016. On **Wednesday 29th June at 7.00pm** we shall be welcoming many of you to our annual **Academy Achievement Evening** for all years (old Year 7, 8, 9 and 10) to celebrate the students' outstanding achievements this year. On **Friday 15th July at 2.00pm** we are holding our first ever **Key Stage 3 Graduation Assembly** to celebrate the achievements of our current Year 8's (new Year 9's). Finally on **Tuesday 19th and Wednesday 20th July** Mr Oldham and staff are taking 60 of our highest achievers to London as a reward for all of their significant endeavours throughout the past year. Well done to all of these young people; you are a credit to Aspire.

To continue to reinforce our new vision, ethos and culture we all need to **PAUSE** for a moment. **PAUSE** has become **Aspire's** critical acronym and underpins everything we do. It represents:

Punctuality to school is essential. 1 minute late will lead to a 1 hour detention the same night.
Attendance to school is non-negotiable. To encourage this there are/will be plenty of rewards.
Uniform must be correct every day. A bag, black shoes, blazers, ties etc. are essential.
Safe and Sensible Behaviour must be the norm so everyone is safe.
High Expectations & Exam Performance are the keys to student success.

We expect **ALL** of our students to accept, and respond positively to these **key** essentials to life at Aspire and for **all** parents and carers to support us with this message.

Please do not forget that the school closes on **Friday 22nd July at 1.20pm** and re-opens for the start of the new school year at **8.35am on Wednesday 31st August**, which is much earlier than in previous years.

Finally it is important to inform you that from 31st August 2016 Mrs Shuttleworth-Brown will become Principal of Aspire Academy and I shall take on the role of Executive Principal in line with other FCAT Academies. As a consequence there will be no change in the vision, culture and ethos of the Academy since Mrs Shuttleworth-Brown has been one of Aspire's key Deputy Principals for the past 2 years.

Mr Topping will also be changing his role and leave our Academy to work further with FCAT and its growing number of Academies. We wish him every success in his new post and thank him whole heartedly for his considerable hard work and endeavours on behalf of students and families from Bispham and Collegiate High schools and more recently Aspire Academy. In the future in 2017 Mr Birch, Headteacher at Garstang Academy, will become Executive Principal as FCAT refines its leadership structure across its secondary schools. It will lead to a strengthening of leadership at Aspire which will benefit the students, parents and the community leading to greater ... success nothing less!X

I look forward to meeting you at the various events planned this term and thank you for your continued support of Aspire Academy.

Yours sincerely

C B Simkins
Principal

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