

17th July 2017



Success nothing less

Dear Parent/Carer,

I cannot believe that we have reached the end of another academic year at Aspire, it seems to have flown by exceedingly quickly. I am immensely proud of the positive spirit that pervades the Academy day in and day out. Aspire is a great place to learn and work and this has become more evident throughout my first year as Principal. I am particularly pleased that the improvement initiatives that we developed have become embedded in Academy life.

Every hour of learning at Aspire is critical, we call it the **GOLDEN** hour and there are 5 a day, 25 a week and 975 a year. Our expectation is that students apply themselves to their challenging work for each one of the golden hours to achieve 'success nothing less!' We are aspirational about all our students' **GOLDEN** futures, as we know you are too. So your support is essential to helping us secure the successes of your sons and daughters whilst they are at Aspire with us. Strong parental/carer support is a key factor in helping raise achievement in our young people and we wish to continue to ensure that communications between school and home are helping us build strong foundation for an effective partnership.

Our basic expectations have been unwavering all year, as these are the fundamentals of academy life. High standards of behaviour, excellent attendance and high expectations for academic outcomes are critical foundations to enable success, this is our **GOLDEN** climate for learning. We have been and will continue to be relentless in our pursuit of these high standards and will make no apologies for our expectations. After consulting staff, students and parents we introduced a mobile phone ban on site and it has been a fantastic initiative to support the **GOLDEN** climate for learning. Students are now not distracted by their phones and they even talk to each other in unstructured times!

To further support the **GOLDEN** climate we are introducing the GULP (Give Up Loving Pop) challenge. From August all fizzy drinks will be banned on site and students will be encouraged to drink healthier alternatives instead. This hopefully will have a positive effect of our youngsters' teeth and ability to concentrate throughout the day.

Please can I remind you this summer when you go out to buy school shoes that they **must** be black shoes not trainers and the length of skirts need to be no higher than just above the knee. If students are wearing socks they **must** be black only and to the knee not above the knee. An increasing number of students have been misplacing ties, so could I suggest a spare tie and the ties to be clearly labelled with the student's name.

Our transition project for New Year 7 students took place from Monday 3rd July to Friday 7th July and was a resounding success. The students were able to experience normal lessons in a secondary environment, find their way around, eat their meals in the canteen and meet the older students (who were brilliant with them!). We hope that this will mean they settle in to Aspire life quickly in August and continue to make excellent progress in their studies.

Finally on **Tuesday 18th and Wednesday 19th 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.

Dates for your diary:

Friday 21st July at 1:20pm - School Closes for summer

Wednesday 30th August at 8:40am - School reopens for the start of term

Monday 4th September to Wednesday 6th September – Residential trip for year 7 to Anglesey

Wednesday 27th September to Wednesday 4th October – Book fair

Thursday 28th September 3:30pm to 5:30pm - Year 7 settling in parents meeting

Tuesday 3rd October - School closes at 1:20pm for Open Evening

Monday 9th October to Friday 20th October – Pre Public Exams for year 11

I have enclosed a letter regarding our move to a cashless system in line with all the other FCAT academies, please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any questions.

We are all looking forward to well-deserved summer break so that we can recharge our batteries for the beginning of the next fabulous academic year at Aspire. I wish you all a peaceful and relaxing holiday and remind you we start back on **Wednesday 30th August!**

Yours sincerely

Mrs Shuttleworth-Brown
Principal