

## **Welcome to the New School Year**

Dear Parents, Carers and Families

I hope this letter finds you well at the end of the first week of this academic year. Some of you may already be aware but others not that this is the end of my first week here at Framwellgate as Headteacher. My intention is to write to everyone once a week with a summary of what has been happening within our community and to outline what's coming up and how we can work together to ensure the best possible experience for your children. These regular updates should not only keep you informed about life in the school on a practical level but also provide a sense of our values, beliefs and main aims as a school.

As we embark on a new academic year, we are excited about the opportunities and challenges that lie ahead. Our focus is on fostering a supportive and inclusive environment where every student can thrive academically, socially, and emotionally.

A highlight of the week was hearing one of our student presidents, Lucy in Year 13, talk to Year 7 on their first day about the advice she would have given her younger self when she started at the school 6 years previously. She talked eloquently about treating others with kindness and respect but also about learning from your mistakes. Making mistakes is normal, especially as children grow and develop, both in the classroom and socially. How our young people respond to their mistakes is what's most important.

I also enjoyed a conversation with four Year 11 students about their hopes and aspirations for the coming year. Most of the boys had a clear plan for what they wanted to be doing a year from now apart from one who'd only ruled out at least one option. He'd clearly had a successful work experience placement as he'd been offered an apprenticeship with the firm, but he was at pains to say, "I won't be doing that." Establishing your likes and dislikes is important in all aspects of life.

Finally, it was great to also talk with some of the parents and carers of our new Year 12 students on Thursday. I impressed upon them that the level of support and care the 6<sup>th</sup> Form team offers our students is formidable. It would be natural to say to this, "How does he know, he's only been there a week?" I know it because I can see it in the way the current Year 13 speak with such warmth and compassion about the support they've received and I can see it being modeled and displayed in all the interactions I've witnessed between the team and our students. The study of A Levels and Level 3 qualifications, like all education, should be of value in and of itself but we would always stress to students that it's also important in terms of the destinations they can then reach. This year we had students going to study, but not limited to:

- History at Oxford
- English at York
- English at Durham

- Sociology at Durham
- Chemistry at Durham
- Politics and History at Newcastle
- Law at Northumbria
- Nursing at York St John
- Physiotherapy at Sunderland.

These students are embarking on this next stage because of their own arduous work but also in part because of the level of pastoral care that runs right through the school. I'm sure our current 6<sup>th</sup> Form students with the same high levels of guidance, support and challenge will achieve similar success.

I've had some phone calls and emails with parents and carers already, all of them positive and I thank people for their support so far. I look forward to meeting many more of you in the coming weeks and also sharing more details about the school and our community.



Michael Wright

Please find this week's key messages below.

### **Parent Information Evenings**

A reminder of the dates and times of Parent Information Evenings. This will be an opportunity to hear in person from senior and key pastoral staff about the outline of the academic year for your child. The Year 10 and 11 events will also feature the Curriculum Leaders of English, Maths and Science giving specific guidance on how to support your child in these key roles.

- Year 7 Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> September 6.00pm
- Year 8 Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> September 5.30pm
- Year 9 Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> September 6.30pm
- Year 10 Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> October 6.00pm
- Year 11 Monday 30<sup>th</sup> September 6.00pm

### **Year 6 Open Evening**

In the next week your child may bring home a letter inviting them to represent our school at the Year 6 Open Evening on **Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> September**. This evening is a really important event for our school and every year the feedback is that our students are excellent ambassadors for our school. If your child has been asked by a teacher to help in a subject area or to act as a student

guide, then they should feel proud they have been asked to represent the school in this way. Thank you in advance for supporting this by ensuring your child has travel arrangements to get to and from school for the evening and is in full uniform.

### **Car Park Passes**

We understand that whilst a lot of students travel independently to and from school, some students are collected by parents and carers for a variety of reasons. To reduce the number of cars on site at the start and at the end of the school day, we are happy to issue a car park pass for those students who need to be collected. This may include students who are particularly vulnerable or have mobility issues. Please can you contact your child's Year Team so we can issue you with a car park pass.

### **Additional support for students on Free School Meals**

If your child is eligible for free school meals, we would like to offer them the opportunity to access a free breakfast. From Monday 9th September, your child will have an additional allowance of 70 pence added to their free school meals account which they can use to purchase breakfast; this is enough money for two slices of toast.

Year 7,8,9 and 10 students can access this provision from Da Vincis.  
Year 11 students can access this provision from Einsteins.

This will be accessible to students from 8.00-8.25am every morning before school.

If you think your child might be eligible for this support but are unsure how to access it or if the system is working, please contact the school directly.