

Framwellgate School Durham
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Dear Parents, Carers and Families,

This week I have been thinking about the nature and power of community, in part inspired by half a conversation with some of our 6th Form students who'd managed to secure Oasis tickets. As a man old enough to have seen them in their 90s pomp (although going to school in Sheffield, my heart will always belong to Pulp) and indeed spent most of my own time in 6th Form going to gigs and concerts, I know the power of being part of a sea of people, all brought together as one, singing and giving voice to emotion. Music is one of the most powerful tools for creating that sense of togetherness and unity, losing yourself as part of a collective, and we see that in sports stadiums and places of worship as well as music venues across the country every week.

There are, however, lots of other ways people can feel that sense of purpose. Obviously as a school our uniform is an important signifier of belonging for students but whenever I talk to students, I also encourage them to take an active role in the wider life of the school. This is good for their own personal development beyond the classroom and the school and means when they're in lessons they're more likely, I believe, to be invested in the most important element of their time here, their learning, because they have trust and faith in the school and what it offers them. It's been great to have so many new Year 7 students approach me this week on lunch duty to ask if they can take part in the Year 6 Open Evening, already feeling a sense of pride in being a member of our community here and wanting to help others. If they can maintain that spirit during their time here the school will benefit as well as them.

This week I also took a meeting with a local sports organisation to talk about how we might collaborate together, looking to support young people and offer them enhanced opportunities. What impressed me most was their commitment, like mine and this school's, to social justice, offering the most to those who need the most. It's possible that someone reading this also works within or knows of another organisation in Durham or beyond that shares these values and recognises the importance of taking a central role in communities for the benefit of all. If that's you, please get in touch and let's talk about how we might work together.

Many thanks for your continued support of the school, I hope you all have a good weekend.



Michael Wright

Please find this week's key messages below.

Safeguarding

We have a Safeguarding Team in school to support the welfare of all of our students. Mrs Osborne is our Director of Safeguarding and works closely with the Safeguarding Team who are all fully trained Designated Safeguarding Leads. This includes Heads of Year, Pastoral Managers and our SENDCO. Their role in school is to ensure that students are safe from harm both inside and outside of school. You can talk to any members of the team if you are worried about your child, or someone else, who may be at risk of harm. If you are worried about any students and wish to discuss a concern anonymously, you can also call First Contact on 03000 267979.

Lee's Coaches

We are aware of the issues with these three buses, largely around them now arriving early in the morning and then late in the evening. As you may be aware, the school doesn't hold the contract for this provision, but we have raised our concerns with the company.

Access to the school from Newton Drive

Local residents have contacted the school with concerns about traffic around the school entrance on Newton Drive. For those of you unaware, there is a school gate there where many of our students enter the school site on foot, after being dropped off. The road itself is narrow and there is a sharp bend, along with an entrance to a local primary school. Please can we ask everyone to be considerate of the high volume of traffic that will be trying to access this area in the morning and at the end of our school day. We'll be sharing this message with students as well.

CyberFirst School

We were officially recognised as a silver CyberFirst school just prior to the summer holiday. Cyberfirst is run by the National Cyber Security Centre, part of GCHQ, and as such are one of only 20 schools in the region with this accreditation. This means that we have been recognised for providing a structured approach to excellence in cyber security education as part of our computer science and within the wider curriculum. It will also allow the school to access and form links with a wide range of external organisations, helping us contribute to bridging the skills gaps in industry for this increasingly critical area. Congratulations to Mr Fingleton, his team and the students.

Same Day Detentions

A message was sent to all regarding same day after school detentions for students who have been removed from lessons. Please look at this and contact the school should you have any questions or queries.

Class Charts

We encourage all parents and carers to use the Class Charts app for real time information about their children. If you're unsure how to access this, please contact the school.

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 children. The Year 10 and 11 events will also feature the Heads of English, Maths and Science giving specific guidance on how to support your child in these key roles.

- Year 7 Wednesday 18th September 6.00pm
- Year 8 Monday 23rd September 5.30pm
- Year 9 Monday 23rd September 6.30pm
- Year 10 Wednesday 9th October 6.00pm
- Year 11 Monday 30th 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 26th September**. This evening is a really important event 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 that 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.