

# GARSTANG COMMUNITY ACADEMY

## ...excellenceineveryone



September 2018

Dear Parent/Guardian

### Start of School Year 2018/19 at Garstang Community Academy

I hope that you had an enjoyable and refreshing summer holiday, and that your child has been looking forward to the start of the new school year at Garstang Community Academy. A particularly warm welcome to parents of our new Year 7, the biggest year group we have had.

Indeed, I hope you have had as great a summer as we at school have had. School is looking fabulous; our new cleaning company and our own GCA staff have worked really hard to rejuvenate our lovely site and re-imagine some areas to facilitate our growing numbers, including new and additional cooking facilities, additional seating in Fairsnape dining room (soon to be re-named – watch this space) and fitting out new classrooms, including a new Science Lab.

Our goal, is always to inspire **excellence in everyone**, enabling all our students to achieve their full potential as learners and this summer we achieved the school's **best ever GCSE results!!** Highlights being 78% of students achieving at least grade 4+ in both English and Maths (the old 5A\*-C with EM measure), a quarter of students gained a grade 7 (old grade A) or better in English Language, 65% of students achieved the new grade 5 in Maths, 5 grade 9s in Art and fabulous results in both Combined and Separate Sciences. We are delighted with these wonderful achievements and remain relentless in our commitment to ensure standards continue to improve throughout the school.

Our school improvement priorities this year are centred around making sure our children are always appropriately challenged in their learning, and enjoy this challenge as well as the other fantastic aspects of school life. As such we have introduced a new GCA lesson paradigm and a new assessment framework, alongside a commitment to look at more long term elements of school. Aspects of this include a commitment to explore new courses and curriculum models to give students a greater breadth of learning in coming academic years; what we do to improve our young people's independence and resilience; and how we ensure that our teachers' workload is appropriate and appropriately deployed.

The term has started with real purpose and a fabulous buzz. Students look wonderful in their new uniforms, and are engaging wonderfully with the challenge in lessons – it is inspiring to see. We have a number of new staff members this year, both as replacements for leaving staff and in completely new posts, with almost 70 more children in school. We have done really well to recruit a great mix of youthful vigour and high caliber experience, both of which will help us on our journey to the next level.

# GARSTANG COMMUNITY ACADEMY

## ...excellenceineveryone



We are determinedly not only focused on our academic excellence, but also on our Arts, Technology and Sports, and have finally seen the finishing touches put to our amazing new All Weather facility. This was officially opened, with appropriate pomp, on Saturday by Dr. Hannah MacLeod MBE – Olympic Hockey gold medal winner – who chatted with students and then led a coaching session with them before declaring the pitch open. A massive thanks to all who made this happen but especially Tracey Jones (GCA's Operations Manager) and Garstang Hockey Club.

All in all it has been a magnificent summer and a superb start to the new academic year but we, inevitably, need your partnership to help that to continue. To try to facilitate that, I've listed the key dates for each year group below – please ensure your child works hard towards the scheduled exams – specific subject information will be sent out in the run up to each window. Please do come to the scheduled Progress Evenings to support your child; it is incredibly important that we work together to do the best by your child and to ensure that this wonderful school continues to go from strength to strength.

I would also like to take this opportunity to remind you that Open Evening is scheduled for Thursday, 20th September, from 6.00pm-8.30pm. In order to help staff prepare for this important event, the school will close earlier than normal on this day, at 1.05pm, and I have arranged for buses to collect the students at that time. Moreover, students will not be in school on Friday, 21st September, which is a designated staff training day.

As always, I thank you for your continued support.

Yours sincerely

Alasdair Ashcroft  
Principal

# GARSTANG COMMUNITY ACADEMY

...excellenceineveryone



## Year 7 Key Dates:

Reports Due (week beginning)  
1/10/18 – Settling In Report  
10/12/18 – Full Report  
17/6/19 – Progress Report  
Settling-in Evening  
4/10/18  
Progress Evening  
28/3/19  
Exams (week beginning)  
20/5/19

## Year 8 Key Dates:

Reports Due (week beginning)  
1/4/19 – Full Report  
15/7/19 – Progress Report  
Progress Evening  
8/11/18  
Curriculum Evening  
31/1/19  
Exams (week beginning)  
24/6/19

## Year 9 Key Dates:

Reports Due (week beginning)  
5/11/18 – Progress Report  
25/2/19 – Progress Report  
15/7/19 – Full Report  
Progress Evening  
28/2/19  
Mock Exams (week beginning)  
17/6/19

...excellenceineveryone

# GARSTANG COMMUNITY ACADEMY

## ...excellenceineveryone



### Year 10 Key Dates:

Reports Due (week beginning)

12/11/18 – Progress Report

18/3/19 – Progress Report

17/6/19 – Full Report

Progress Evening

17/1/19

Mock Exams (week beginning)

15/10/18 and 29/4/19

### Year 11 Key Dates:

Reports Due (week beginning)

10/1/19 – Full Report

11/3/19 – Progress Report

10/12/18 – Mock Results Report

Progress Evening

11/10/18

Mock Exams (week beginning)

12/11/18 and 11/2/19

...excellenceineveryone