



GARSTANG COMMUNITY ACADEMY

Bowgreave · Garstang · Lancashire · PR3 1YE · Tel: 01995 603226 · Email:
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26th May 2021

Dear Parent/Carer

As we approach the end of yet another very taxing half term, I wanted to take an opportunity to thank people, yet again, for their stoicism, their resilience and for being, quite simply, amazing. Who are these people I am referring to? Well, firstly you at home: parents and carers, who have supported and cajoled; fed and encouraged; transported and clothed your wonderful children to a very excellent standard all told. Also, GCA staff who, having supported remote learning to such a high level prior to Easter have, enthusiastically and energetically thrown themselves back into their unfamiliar classrooms (still, often, in parts of the school hitherto unexplored) to teach lessons of an astonishingly high standard. And, lastly, our wonderful children – they have been, totally, absolutely and utterly, extraordinary – what children in the last half a century or more have been forced to endure so much, while so much was expected of them? I am in complete awe of them – if GCA young people are representative of young people across the country or, indeed, the world, the future is in extremely safe hands. Well done and thanks to all of you.

What does the last half term of the year hold in store? We hope for a slow return to some form of normality:

- All children will be issued with a new timetable from 14/6 (fingers firmly crossed!!) which will give them access to specialist rooms (Science, creative arts etc) and get children used to moving around school again.
- Year 11 will leave us on Friday 11/6. Any year 11 looking for inspiration, support or just a bit of additional work could have a look at the Blackpool Sixth New Student Hub which can be accessed at <https://www.blackpoolsixth.ac.uk/newstudenthub/> which provides all the key information they need about joining the college, but also has a section for each subject they offer where students (whether they are intending to go to Blackpool Sixth or not) can find preparation tasks and suggested reading/viewing to help give them the best possible start in these subjects.
- A slight rearrangement of lunch times after Year 11 have left on Friday 11/6 – the changes are:
 - o Year 7 will be allowed access to the Fairsnape canteen at break time.
 - o Year 8 will move their break and lunchtime to the later time - break at 11.10am and lunch at 1.30pm.
 - o Year 9 will change zone to the back of school and have access to the main canteen rather than the Fairsnape canteen.
- Masks – we await further guidance and variant updates, so no change for now.
- Year 9 and Year 10 Prefect, Senior Prefect and Head Girl/Boy processes will be completed and start their duties after half term.

Exams – year 10 have been doing exams this week and have engaged with these fantastically well – they will continue through the first week back after half term – please encourage children to prepare well for these. Year 9 exams are in the week beginning 21/6 – again, please encourage children to prepare really well – it is very important for us to get a true reflection of current progress. Year 7 have been doing benchmark assessments this week in English and Maths so that we can get a clear picture of progress and any potential impact of Covid lockdowns on literacy and numeracy so that we can build more Covid-recovery intervention into next year's plans. Year 8 will be completing summative assessments in English, Maths and Science after half term which will give us a much clearer picture of their progress in the core areas prior to starting Level 2 courses in September.



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Please continue to encourage children to do their lateral flow tests for Covid twice a week, and if there are positive results, log them with the NHS and follow their advice regarding follow up PCR tests and please let us know via the SLT@ email address as usual.

I wish you all a restful bank holiday – hopefully in the sun – and I look forward to welcoming children back refreshed, on the 7th June.

Very best wishes, and stay safe,

Alasdair Ashcroft
Headteacher