



GARSTANG COMMUNITY ACADEMY

Bowgreave · Garstang · Lancashire · PR3 1YE · Tel: 01995 603226 · Email:
info@garstangcommunityacademy.com

14th July 2021

Dear Parent/Carer

This week

We have had a number of things going on this week in addition to our normal high-quality teaching and learning:

- On Monday afternoon (Year 7) and Tuesday morning (Years 8 – 10) we had awards assemblies in school, with about 200 'Outstanding Behaviour' certificates handed out and around 320 individual awards and prizes for Subject Awards, Progress Leader Awards and Students of the Year Awards - there was a lovely buzz of success and pride in achievement.
- Tuesday also saw the return of Wallings' ice cream van to GCA, with children given time and space to either buy an ice cream or to 'cash in' vouchers they won as part of their awards. This was a lovely way to thank children and staff for all their hard work and resilience.
- On Wednesday, all year 10s completed a career related action-plan questionnaire. This exercise is to help our careers team to identify the support Year 10 students may require with their next steps as they go into their final year at GCA. All students will have at least one careers appointment but the questionnaire will allow them to request early information support and guidance, this is particularly important for those wishing to progress to e.g. a Level 3 apprenticeship as applications open early in the academic year for many of these prestigious schemes which our students have been very successful in accessing in the past. Following their careers appointment all students will receive a detailed action plan via their student email, please encourage them to share this with you, and if you then have any questions please email careers@garstangcommunityacademy.com and one of the team will do their best to support you.

Next Week

- School will close for the summer on Tuesday at 1.15pm. Year 7 and 10 will leave at 1.10pm and Years 8 and 9 at 1.05pm and the buses will depart at 1.15pm.
- Tuesday will be a non-uniform day. As at Christmas, we will communicate a 'Just Giving' page for donations to the 'Young Minds' charity.

September

I wrote to you last week outlining my hopes for September. With one exception these hopes look like they will be September's reality:



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- Forms and classes will no longer be taught in 'bubbles' or 'bubble rooms'.
- School site will continue to only be open to students from 8.15am, but registration in 'normal' registration groups/rooms will return to an 8.40am start – this means that students should be entering their form rooms at 8.40am, not just coming through the school gates at this time.
- The school day will end at 3.05pm for everyone other those staying for after-school activities.
- Split breaks and lunches will continue; students on a particular lunch will not be restricted to a particular canteen at lunchtime, but will have an outside zone which they will be expected to occupy for the rest of their break/lunch. Wet breaks/lunches will be in the canteen areas.
- Uniform will return to normal with no 'PE Uniform' day. Please make sure that you check the list on the website, but things we will be watching very closely for are coat colour (navy, black or dark blue), dark socks (ankle only for girls), proper shoes.

Additional/adjusted arrangements for September:

- Due to the Government telling us that we must test students twice on their return in September, we will now welcome Year 7 and Year 11 back on Thursday 2nd September and students will be tested in the first part of the morning. Years 8,9 and 10 will be welcomed back and tested on Friday 3rd September. Please note Years 7 and 11 will NOT be in school on Friday 3rd September. All students will then return on Monday 6th September and will be re-tested on the Monday (Years 7 and 11) and Tuesday (Years 8,9 and 10) during the course of their normal day. Consent for Years 8 – 10 will be assumed according to consent given earlier in the year – please inform us if you wish to withdraw your consent. New year 7 parents have been contacted separately to gain their consent.
- Classrooms will still need to be well ventilated and therefore you may wish, in advance, to purchase plain underclothing and school jumpers – we will keep the long-sleeved jumper as part of our uniform for the next academic year.
- Children travelling to school on buses (LCC/school or Stagecoach Transport) will be required to wear masks at all times while on the bus.
- Children and adults will be welcome to wear masks on site for the foreseeable future if they wish to do so.

September Staff Changes

We sadly say goodbye to a number of very longstanding staff at the end of this academic year and I'm sure you will want to join with me in thanking them for everything they have done for Garstang Community Academy and in wishing them well for their next challenge. Staff Leaving team GCA are:

Debra	Crutcher
Paul	Dawson
Cat	Doyle
Kath	Kellet
Gordon	Kidd



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Susan Richardson
Peter Townsend
Jayne Wakefield
Barbara Whitehead

As we approach the end of the year, all that remains is for me to thank everyone (parents/carers, governors, staff and children) yet again for their fortitude, resilience and encouragement, and to wish every one of you a lovely summer. I am certainly ready for the break myself, albeit with an optimistic eye on September and the anticipation of an exciting year ahead when we all return refreshed, reinvigorated and ready for the next challenge.

Very best wishes, and stay safe,

Alasdair Ashcroft
Headteacher