



GARSTANG COMMUNITY ACADEMY

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

24th March, 2022

Dear Parent/Carer

As we approach the last week of the term, having negotiated the dark days of winter, I thought it would be useful to update you on what's happening and going to happen at GCA.

It's been a really busy term and I thought I would pick out a few **highlights**:

- As part of our Self Evaluation, we've been focussing on making sure children know how they know that they have learned in their lessons – revisiting their Challenge Outcomes and specific application of knowledge tasks.
- **Year 11** have had a full set of Mock exams and worked really hard in preparation for these. Resilience will be a key to success in the summer and our Year 11s are showing it in spades – well done to them. Just the small matter of the next 3 months to get through now – please encourage sustained, well-planned revision programmes with Year 11 children over Easter and next half term. If you need any help or support, please let us know.
- Our 'Word of the Week' has thrown up some interesting words including Resilience(!); Vertiginous; Ebullition (a new one to me – the action of bubbling or a sudden outburst of emotion) and Sustainability
- Sporting successes have been plethora, including: Year 11 boys footballers have qualified for the quarter finals of Lancashire Cup; Year 8 boys footballers are through to the semi-finals of the Lancashire Cup; Year 8 boys came second in Lancashire in handball and are through to the North West England finals and Year 8 girls also came second in Lancashire in handball and are also through to the North West England finals. A massive well done to everyone involved in those successes.
- Auditions for Buggy have taken place, roles allocated and rehearsals are well under way.
- Our Eco-warriors in Year 9 had a very successful visit to Blackpool 6th's Eco Conference.
- Year 9 Duke of Edinburgh participants are gearing up for expeditions etc.

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Year 8 parents will be very interested to hear that, after careful consideration, and consultation with our staff and Trust, we have decided to return to delivering the Key Stage 3 curriculum over three years. This is because, as you will be only too aware, our current year 8 and 7 students (and year 6, 5, 4 etc at local primaries) have had a very disrupted education over the past two years and we feel that the breadth and depth which a three year Key Stage 3 gives, is fundamental to their full educational development in terms of additional literacy and numeracy gap filling as well as ensuring that they have had sufficient exposure to all the other subjects we offer. We firmly believe that this decision will give our students the best possible foundations for learning at key stage 4 whilst ensuring that they are in the best position to make informed choices during an 'Options' process in year 9. If you do have any questions regarding this, please contact Mrs Rawcliffe who will be happy to answer them. We will be communicating this decision with Year 8 children before we break up for Easter.

Very excitingly, on Wednesday 20th April, 2022 we are having a **whole school** Diamond Anniversary **photograph** taken (delayed by about 4 year due to previous years of inclement weather and Covid). Please could you make sure that your children are in their best school uniforms on that day and encourage them to be in school. Copies of the photograph will be available to purchase later in the summer term.

Children from **all year groups** will be welcome to wear the **GCA polo shirts** from Tuesday 3rd May (usual provisos apply, including that they may be worn without an additional layer, but if an additional layer is required, it must include the school blazer – i.e. not just a jumper on top and not just an outdoor coat on top.)

High Award Point achievers from **every year group** will receive a treat next week – any child who has achieved the next badge up since last term will be invited to a 'Movie Experience' with e.g. popcorn/ice cream as a reward. This will involve 142 Year 7 children, 136 Year 8s, 86 Year 9s, 73 Year 10s and 17 Year 11s.

There will also be Easter eggs being given to students who have been nominated as having been especially amazing this term.

A last few things for **everyone**:

- Please, please, please try to get students to attend school if at all possible, and report any absences every day that your child is ill. We would always expect children to aim for 100% attendance at school. If you would like additional support with encouraging

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the good attendance of your child at school, please contact our Attendance Manager, Mrs Seaton.

- After Easter, the lesson plans we have been putting on Synergy to support the home learning of Covid Isolating children will no longer be available.
- Students should not be on site before 8.15am. If children do gain access prior to 8.15am they will not necessarily be supervised and therefore this should be avoided.
- It is our expectation that once children are on site in the morning they do not then leave site to meet with friends – they should stay on site until the end of the school day.
- Covid levels are still high in children and staff – please continue to encourage good levels of hygiene, testing if children develop symptoms and isolating if they test positive. Please also be patient if children have had supply staff for lessons – we do our very best to leave high quality work for children and to recruit and train as high quality supply staff as possible before they are entrusted with your children, however, we are very aware that it is much better for everyone when they are educated by their proper GCA teacher.

If you have any questions regarding any of the above information, please do not hesitate to contact the school.

As ever, I thank you for your ongoing support and encouragement for the children and staff at GCA.

Very best wishes,

Alasdair Ashcroft

Headteacher

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