Forest Gate Community School
Fly, Grow, Connect, Strive

September 2015

Outstanding Results

It is with great pride that we returned to school with news of outstanding GCSE results. 71% of our children achieved 5A*- C grades including English and Maths. 27% of our students received A*- A grades in 3 subjects or more. These results reflect the hard work of our students, the persistence and dedication of our teachers, and the support and engagement of our parents. The Leadership Group would like to take the opportunity to thank everyone involved. We wish our leavers every success in their college courses and beyond.

More information about our GCSE results is available on our website along with a selection of short films about the work we are undertake at Forest Gate Community School to make sure that every child achieves. Please take a look. http://www.forestgate.newham.sch.uk/

School Day

Please note the times of the school day:

All students should be on site by 8:40am

Lessons end : Mon, Wed, Thurs at 3:28pm. Tues, Fri at 2:50pm.

The school is open from 7:30am for Breakfast Club and private study for all students.

There are opportunities for private study everyday until 5:30pm. There are also a variety of clubs and interventions which take place. All information is available on our website. It is the responsibility of students to communicate to parents when they intend to stay at school after lesson ends.

Any student arriving after 8:40am will receive a 30 minute detention that evening.

Key Dates

Enclosed with this letter there is a Parents' Calendar for you to use. It has all of the scheduled dates for events that may involve you and your child. Please keep it safe and refer to it to help organise your child's school year. Please note that while the dates are correct to the best of our knowledge, any unavoidable change will be communicated to you as soon as we know.

Water Only

We are all aware of the benefits of drinking water and the dangers of drinking high sugar and fizzy drinks. With this in mind, the only drink your child should bring to school is water. All year 7 students have a special FGCS water bottle. Any other students who wish to purchase this type of bottle can do so from Mr Shapland in G35 for £3.00.

British Heart Foundation

This term the school will be supporting their 'Bag it, Beat it' charity campaign. Students are asked to make donations of old clothes and other items that can be sold in their shops to raise money for this worthy cause.

Mobile phones

Please remember mobile phones and other digital devices are not permitted in school. If they are seen in school , they will be confiscated and returned to a parent at a time which is convenient for the school. This rule is to keep your child safe from online dangers and possible theft.

Year 11 News

You should have received information regarding to after school interventions for your child. If you have any queries please contact Mr Dixon, Head of Year 11.

Preliminary Exam Dates:

English, Maths and Science will start on the week commencing Monday 30th November 2015.

All other subjects, except for Art, will start from Monday 7th December 2015 and will finish on Friday 11th December 2015.

The Year 11 Preliminary Art Exam will take place for two days on Wednesday 16th December 2015 and Thursday 17th December 2015.

Your child should begin their revision for these exams now.

Homework

All homework is on Show my Homework. You can access this through 'google'- simply type in 'Forest Gate Show my Homework' or through the 'students' section of our website. All students should also record their homework in their student planners.

Rewards and Sanctions

We have a system of rewards, which involves students collecting merits for effort, achievement and conduct. This year, on reaching milestones, they will receive a brooch to wear on their blazer. The record for merits last year was 400 and I know we will beat it this year.

In the undesirable situation of a student needing a sanction, we award demerits. We also have high standards for corridor conduct and uniform, breaches of which also receive a sanction. We have a range of sanctions in place in order to improve student behaviour. In some cases students receive a detention from a Head of Faculty or Head of Learning. These take place on a Friday evening for one hour after school. In rarer situations students receive a Headteachers' detention. These take place on a Saturday morning between 9-10.30 am and students are expected to attend in full school uniform. If your child receives a detention, you will be notified by text message or letter.

We have adopted a new system called 'Behaviour Watch' to track and record rewards and sanctions. We hope you will find it will improve communication in these matters.

Contact Details

Please make sure your email address and mobile phone numbers are communicated to the school by emailing heather.allen@forestgate.newham.sch.uk or by calling 0208 534 8666.

MFL Day Trip to France 2nd October

This is open to all students. Please see your MFL teacher for a letter as soon as possible.

Parent Coffee Mornings

These were a popular addition to our calendar. This year they will take place on a Friday morning from 8:30am –9:30am and will have a variety of themes and opportunities to speak to key staff or to network with other parents. They are also a chance to enjoy some refreshments. Please see the programme overleaf for the Autumn Term.

Coffee Mornings Programme Autumn Term

Date	Theme	Notes
18.09.2015	Meet the Headteacher	Meet the Headteacher- Mr Elliott
25.09.2015	Assessment and Marking	Understand how we assess your child.
02.10.2015	Literacy and Reading	Literacy at FGCS. Tour of the library. Suggestions of books related to your child's age/ability.
09.10.2015	Online Safety	Discuss worries about keeping your child safe online. Discuss concerns about the use of social media. How to monitor your child's online activity.
16.10.2015	Careers Education/Options	Getting ready for work experience - year 10. Help with options Preparing for college/6th form – year 11.
13.11.2015	Healthy Lifestyles and school Canteen	Come and discuss the importance of leading a healthy lifestyle and how this is incorporated within the school canteen. Help with ideas for nutritious meals for teenagers.
20.11.2015	More Able Students	How do we motivate and push the More Able students? Come and talk to our MAS coordinator and Curriculum Deputy.
27.11.2015	Inclusion	Discuss any concerns you have regarding your child's learning needs with the Head of Inclusion
04.12.2015	Student Reports Explained	Help with decoding and understanding your child's report, particularly since the changes to assessment nationally.
11.12.2015	Maths	Need to know how to help your child with Maths? Come and see our Head of Maths who can offer advice and help.