



Forest Gate Community School

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Headteacher: **Simon Elliott**

5th September 2014

Dear Parent or Carer

Welcome back to the new school year at Forest Gate Community School. I would like to take this opportunity to share some useful information for the coming half-term.

Excellent Exam Results

We are very pleased to report that our results this summer were excellent.

- 73% of our students obtained a grade A*-C in English (National average only 61%)
- 86% of our students made **expected or better** progress in English (National average was expected to be only 69%)
- 76% of our students obtained a grade A*-C in Maths (National average only 63%)
- 84% of our students made **expected or better** progress in Maths (National average was expected to be only 69%)
- 21% of students got 3 or more A* or A grades
- 64% of our students got both English and Maths.

We wish our former students every success as they move on to further education and training.

Key Dates for Autumn Term 1

Wednesday 3 rd September	Students return to school
Friday 5 th September	Year 7 School Photographs
Monday 8 th September	English Exam Skills commence for all year 11 students. (This will take place weekly until 4: 00)
Tuesday 16 th September- Wednesday 17 th September	Year 8 Immunisations (girls only)
Wednesday 17 th September	Open Evening for 2015 Admissions. School finishes for all students at 2:50
Wednesday 24 th September	Year 7 Parents' Information Evening (4.30-6pm)
Monday 29 th September	Year 11 Science Controlled Assessment Starts
Wednesday 1 st October	All Years Parents' Information Evening (5pm- 7pm) Year 9 Geography Field Trip PE GCSE Controlled Assessment Starts
Friday 10 th October	MFL trip to Boulogne
Wednesday 16 th October	Year 8 Immunisations (girls only)
Friday 17 th October	Year 11 Art Research Trip
Friday 24 th October	Newham Young Mayor Election
Monday 27 th October – Friday 31 st October	Half-term

School Day

Please remember that lesson 1 starts promptly at 8:45am. Any student that arrives after that time will be marked as late. Please help your child to be punctual. The school is open from 7:30am for quiet study and Breakfast Club is available for all students to have a free breakfast.

Mentoring has changed slightly this year so all students will finish at the same time. Please see finishing times below:

Monday	3:23pm
Tuesday	2:50pm
Wednesday	3:23pm
Thursday	3:23pm
Friday	2:50pm

After school each evening we have various study interventions and clubs on offer. These will be published on our website from Monday 8th September. If your child is attending an after school session, please ask them to inform you in the morning.

Parents' Information Evenings

We have planned to hold Information Evenings throughout the year and they are the opportunity for parents to find out more about school life and beyond. This half term we have two:

Wednesday 24th September– **Year 7 Parents' Information Evening (4.30-6pm)** - For parents of children in Year 7 to meet their child's tutor and key staff.

Wednesday 1st October- **All Years Parents' Information Evening (5pm- 7pm)** - For parents in all years to 'drop in' to speak to their child's Head of Learning or a member of the Leadership group.

Open Evening

As usual in the first half-term, we are opening the school to allow prospective parents to look at the excellent opportunities we have to offer at Forest Gate. The school will close for students at 2:50pm. Some students will be invited to assist on Open Evening. They will receive a letter and will only be permitted to attend with a returned, signed reply slip.

Uniform

As you are aware, following consultation with students, parents and staff, the Governors have agreed to change the school uniform for Year 7 with a view to it being rolled out to all year groups by September 2015. The uniform list is available from the school and is on our website. If you are replacing items for your child throughout the school year, please use the new uniform. Students in Years 8 – 11 are permitted to wear the uniform with immediate effect. Any students with incorrect uniform will have the item confiscated and will receive a Head of Learning detention.

Banned Items

Due to misuse, e-safety and to avoid distractions, **mobile phones and other digital items** such as ipods are not permitted in school. If students wish to use the items on the journey to and from school, they should leave them in their bags when on the school premises. If a member of staff sees the phone, hears it, or knows it has been used, they will confiscate the item and it will be returned by the Student Manager to the parent only.

Following Health Advice, I would like to remind you that **high energy drinks** such as Red Bull and Kick are not suitable for children. All energy drinks will be confiscated and disposed of if found in school.

Lunches

Please make sure that your child is able to have a lunch each day. Please provide them with a healthy packed lunch or sufficient money to buy a lunch. If you think your child may be entitled to free school meals, please apply. Increasingly children are bringing in snacks such as large bags of crisps or donuts which are not sufficient for a healthy balanced diet.

PE Information

If students are ill or injured then they must still bring their PE kit. Just a note saying they are not doing PE is not acceptable. In most cases, if they can't do PE, they can still get changed and do other less physical activities. This is to ensure that every child can still receive quality Physical Education.

The PE kit consists of a green polo shirt, black shorts or track suit trousers, sports socks and trainers. If it is cold, there is a black PE sweat shirt available as well. Please provide appropriate replacement kit as required.

Every Child a Reader

As part of our drive to improve literacy, students will be given lots more opportunity in the school day to read. Please make sure your child has a suitable reading book in their bag at all times. Students will be given the opportunity to choose books from the library or can bring books from home if they prefer. Please ask your child about what they are reading and perhaps share with you their thoughts on the book.

Presentation Policy

We have introduced a 'Presentation Policy' for the way students present their work in English and other subjects. You will find the policy in the front of their English books. It will be helpful for all students to have a ruler, spare black pen, pencil and rubber for all lessons. Please encourage your child to take care in presenting their homework and classwork. Please check your child's books to ensure that they are presenting their work properly – this is an easy activity you can do at home to help your child succeed.

Homework

All students are able to access their homework using 'Show my Homework'. There is a link to it through our school website. If your child is having trouble accessing 'Show my Homework', they should speak to their form tutor in the first instance.

Year Seven

As from Monday 8th September Year 7 students will no longer be using the back gate. They should enter school in the morning and leave school at home time using the main gate on Forest Lane.

Website

All letters and important information are placed on our website. Please check it regularly for updates.

Yours sincerely



Charlotte Whelan
Deputy Head teacher