



Foxford - for Learning, for Creativity, for Success!

To: Parents/Carers of all students at
Foxford School and Community Arts
College

Monday, 08 September 2014

Dear Parent / Carer

We have had a good start to the new academic year. It has been nice to welcome new Year 7 students to Foxford as well as the return of other year groups.

As always during the summer break much has happened on the school site while our students have been away. Following storm damage last summer part of the 3 storey block roof was replaced as planned. Unfortunately while the work was being carried out further flooding happened causing much additional work.

Other planned work has also taken place; including the replacement of the air handling systems for the swimming pool, further refurbishment of toilets and other facilities around the school. We have also had a major move around of where subject areas are accommodated to better enable timetabling of lessons. All of these changes will further enhance the learning environment for our students.

As you were aware we hosted a full Ofsted inspection at the start of July. The report from which is due to be published in the next few days – when it is it can be accessed on the Ofsted website www.ofsted.gov.uk. If you wish to receive a paper copy please contact the school and we will make one available to you.

The inspectors recognised the progress the school is making and agreed the priority areas we had identified. Since their visit we have collated our final KS3 assessments for Year 9 which show students are now accelerating their progress. In Year 11 our 5 A*-C, including English and maths, percentage increased this year and, importantly, both English and science increased their results; as identified by Ofsted as a priority. At A level both our A2 and AS results improved – with the vast majority of students leaving Foxford for either university or apprenticeship. We now have a detailed action plan to address the remaining priorities identified by Ofsted and feel confident we can make the further improvements needed over the next 2 years.

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We were particularly pleased with the praise given to our governing body by Ofsted – reflecting the hard work and commitment of these volunteers who support the leadership of the school. We do currently have a few governor vacancies – if you would like more information and feel you might like to become a governor at Foxford please contact the school.

New Staff

You will remember me writing to let you know at the end of last term the staff who were leaving us, due mainly to retirement or promotion. We are now delighted to welcome the following new staff to Foxford School. Through making these appointments we are increasing our teaching staff due to increased numbers in Year 7 this term:-

Teachers

Mr Blackwall – Assistant Head Teacher
Ms Anderson – Teacher of Creative Arts
Mr Ayres – Teacher of Humanities
Ms Banwell – Teacher of Humanities
Ms Barnes – Teacher of Maths
Ms Dorkins – Teacher of Technology
Ms Lester – Teacher of PE
Mr McLeish – Teacher of Maths
Mr Mountain – Teacher of English
Mr Perryman – Teacher of Maths
Ms Searchwell – Teacher of Science

Non-Teaching Student Support

Ms Matthews – Graduate Learning Mentor (KS4 Learning Zone)
Mr Donovan – Learning Assistant
Ms Webster – Learning Assistant
Ms Gardner – Learning Assistant

Supporting Students' Learning

All students have been given a planner. I hope your son/daughter has already shown you theirs. The planner is a vital piece of equipment as it contains student timetables, reward cards, calendar and homework log. It is also a tool by which the school can communicate with you and vice versa. We expect each student to record all of their home learning in it.

Should your child lose their planner we will be charging a nominal amount of £1.50 to replace it and you will be contacted about it.

You will note from our Ofsted report that homework was identified as an area in need of improvement – this will be a priority for us. You can expect students to have work regularly set. Homework is a good way to extend and reinforce the learning which takes place in the classroom. It may involve reading, research, revision, learning by heart or talking at home. Some students prefer to do homework straightaway at the end of the day and the school library – with computers – stays open to allow that to happen. I implore you to take note, by looking at your child's planner, of the subjects that are to be set each night and to support your child by ensuring that work is completed. Teachers are increasingly setting home learning tasks through Moodle-Do – our virtual learning platform. Students are able to access this through our website (www.foxford.coventry.sch.uk). The system allows students to send work back to staff online. Please take time to look at the school website and Moodle-Do regularly as they are a source of up to date information.

School Uniform

I thank you for your continued support in ensuring that all students are in correct uniform. We have had a good start to the term which needs to continue throughout the year. It will be increasingly important once the weather changes that a warm coat is worn to and from school. We expect our students to be in correct uniform all of the time. You can expect to be contacted if they are not.

Student Progress Reviewers

Each student has a Progress Reviewer who they will shortly have their first meeting with. Where possible this remains the same person as they had last year. Over the first half term all students will have a number of sessions with them.

You will be receiving progress review reports two times a year. In addition, for students in Years 7-10 parents will be meeting with their son/daughter's Progress Reviewer twice a year (in December and June) to discuss their progress. For students in Years 10-13 there will be traditional subject teacher Parents' Evenings.

Further information will be provided prior to the first Progress Review day in December.

Information and transition evenings will also take place for specific year groups at key times in the year.

Catering

Food is available before school and during both breaks from Foxy's Diner. If students wish to purchase food they need to do so through our cashless catering system. The cashless catering system does not allow students to go into debt; so I would ask that parent/carers ensure that students have enough credit on their account, money to put into the revaluation machines located in school or a packed lunch each day. Free school meals are credited at £2.70 a day.

Aspire Award and Extra-Curricular Activities

Last term we piloted our Aspire Award with Year 8. We are now going to extend the opportunity for students to be involved to Year 7-9 students.

The Aspire Award encourages students to involve themselves in developing new skills, trying new extra-curricular activities, volunteering and developing their leadership skills.

Further information will be shared with students in the coming weeks.

As I said in my end of summer term letter, following government guidelines, we are no longer allowing students to bring in carbonated drinks to school. Should they do so they can expect them to be confiscated. Please support us by not allowing them to bring them into school.

Calendar for the Year

I am including at the end of this letter a list of currently known dates for this academic year. Please make a note of these as we do not, as a rule, send out further reminders of all events.

Holidays in Term Time

From 1st September 2013 the school will not grant any leave of absence during term time unless there are exceptional circumstances.

Government guidelines state "The current law does not give any entitlement to parents to take their child on holiday during term time. Any application for leave must be in exceptional circumstances and the Headteacher must be satisfied that the circumstances warrant the granting of leave."

Parents wishing to apply for extended leave in term time must now complete the Exceptional Leave in Term time form, available from your child's Director of Learning or The Hub.

Taking an annual family holiday during term time is not an example of exceptional circumstances and therefore will not be authorised by the school.

If a parent takes their child on holiday in term-time without the Head Teacher's permission, this will be recorded as unauthorised holiday on the student's school attendance record. If this absence exceeds 10 sessions (five school days) then the school will apply for a Fixed Penalty Notice to be issued in every case. This will apply for all requests from January 6th 2014.

The aim of Foxford School's attendance policy is to enable the school to provide a consistent practice that encourages and facilitates the regular attendance of all students. Regular attendance at school is key to student progress and enjoyment of learning, and for this reason the school is dedicated to ensuring that its attendance policy is adhered to.

Open Evening

Our Open Evening for Year 6 children will take place on Monday, 15 September, 6.00pm-8.00pm. Please, if you have younger children do bring them along and use this as an opportunity to see the site for yourself and experience some of the activities our students are involved in across the curriculum. In advance I wish to thank parents who have allowed their children to help at the evening.

Should you wish to contact the school at any time to discuss any matter concerning your child please do not hesitate to do so.

We have had an excellent start to the term which bodes well for the academic year ahead. I thank you for the continued support you give to your children and Foxford School and, if you are interested in becoming a governor do contact my PA for further details.

Yours faithfully



Ms R Williamson
Head Teacher

School Calendar 2014 to 2015

Autumn Term 2014

Day	Date	Time	Event
Monday	15 September	6.00pm	Open Evening
Wednesday	17 September	6.00pm	UCAS/Student Finance Parents' Information Evening
Thursday	18 September	6.00pm	Flex Parents' Evening
Thursday	25 September	6.00pm	Year 11 Information Evening
Thursday	09 October	6.00pm	Year 10 Information Evening
Friday	10 October	All day	Year 11 French visit
Tuesday	21 October		Enrichment Day (1) – students
Thursday	23 October	6.00pm	Year 7 Settling In Evening
Monday	27 October	All week	School closed for half term
Thursday	06 November	10.00am	Year 7 Parents' Workshop
Tuesday	18 November		Enrichment Day (2)
Thursday	20 November	6.00pm	Years 7 and 8 Creative Arts Celebration
Thursday	04 December		Progress Review Day (Years 7 – 13) – students only attend for their appointment
Friday	19 December		Last day of Autumn Term – School closes at 1.30pm following whole school assembly
Weeks commencing Monday, 22 December and Monday, 29 December – School closed for the Christmas holiday			

Spring Term 2015

Day	Date	Time	Event
Monday	05 January	8.50am	School opens for the Spring term
Friday	30 January		Inset Day (2) School closed to students
Tuesday	03 February		Enrichment Day (3)
Thursday	05 February	6.00pm	Year 11 Parents' Evening
Thursday	05 February	6.00pm	Post 16 Parents' Evening
Thursday	12 February	6.00pm	Year 11 into Post 16 Information Evening
Thursday	12 February	6.00pm	Year 10 Celebration Evening
Monday	23 February	6.00pm	Year 10 Parents' Evening
Thursday	26 February	6.00pm	Year 9 Information Evening
Thursday	12 March	6.00pm	Year 10 Parents' Evening
Wednesday	25 March	5.30pm	Year 10 Science Parents' Workshop
Thursday	02 April		Last day of Spring Term – School closes at 3.05pm
Friday, 03 April to Friday, 17 April (inclusive) – School closed for the Easter holiday			

Summer Term 2015

Day	Date	Time	Event
Monday	20 April		Moderation Day – only those students invited to attend should be in school
Tuesday	21 April	8.50am	School opens for all students
Monday	04 May		School closed for May Day Bank Holiday
Wednesday	20 May	5.30pm	Flex Celebration Evening
Monday	26 May	All week	School closed for half term
Thursday	11 June		Progress Review Day (Years 7, 8, 9, and 10) – students only attend for their appointment
Tuesday	23 June		Enrichment Day (4)
Wednesday	24 June		Enrichment Day (5)
Monday	29 June		Inset Day (3) School closed to students
Tuesday, 30 June to Friday, 03 July – Year 12 residential visit to Aberystwyth			
Friday	03 July	All day	Year 10 French visit
Wednesday	08 July		New Intake Day
Wednesday	08 July	6.00pm	New Intake Parents' Information Evening
Tuesday	14 July	6.00pm	Celebration Evening
Friday	17 July		Last day of Summer Term – School closes at 1.30pm following whole school assembly