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Our ref: SPL/mw

1st December 2017

Dear Parents and Carers,

Firstly, I would like to express my thanks to you all for your on-going support this year. It has been a wonderful and busy first term and together staff and students have been working incredibly hard on all aspects of school life. You will be aware of the fantastic news we received from Ofsted that, finally, our efforts have been recognised and this has deepened our resolve and confidence that what we are doing is right and we are heading in the right direction on our journey to an 'outstanding' rating.

To put this achievement into context, Ofsted themselves published yesterday, 30th November 2017, that schools in less affluent areas of the country are less likely to increase their grade to 'good' or 'outstanding' than those in affluent areas. The figures also show that over 75% of schools that are graded 'requires improvement' or less are found in less affluent areas. I do not think this will be a surprise to many people, but it is testament to you, your children and their teachers that despite these barriers we are bucking the trend. We are making our own history and writing new chapters and we should all be proud of the part we play.

As a result, I would like to reward the students and staff with an extra two days Christmas holiday this year and therefore this academic term will finish on **Tuesday 19th December at 12.40pm and not Thursday 21st December** as previously published. We will re-open for students on **Monday 8th January 2018**. Should your child be entitled to a free school meal, arrangements will be in place to order a sandwich for collection just after 12.40pm. A packed lunch will also be available for students who order one.

I am sure you will agree that it is well deserved and I hope that, in a small way, this gesture shows my appreciation for what we have achieved so far.

Staffing Update

Congratulations to Mrs Knagg-Baugh on the birth of her daughter who arrived on 30th November. Both are doing fantastically well and we send our very best wishes during this exciting time. We also welcome back Mrs McIntosh who returns from maternity leave to the science department, and at the end of this term and after 21 years of service to Modern Foreign Languages, ICT, English as an Additional Language and Business Studies education we say goodbye to Mrs Mason who is leaving us to follow a new and exciting business venture.

Finally, we know that none of all the great things that happen at Furness Academy happen by chance. At the heart of any success is the enthusiasm of our staff for their craft and tireless energy, the diligence and perseverance of our students and the commitment, knowledge and support of our parents and carers. It truly is a team effort!

Have a peaceful, restful break and a merry Christmas.

Yours faithfully

Mr S P Laheney
Headteacher