

December 2018

Dear Parents and Carers

Firstly, I would like to express my thanks to you all for your ongoing 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. It was great to welcome so many new Year 7 students back in September and it is hard to believe that they have been here such a short time as I watch them walk confidently about the school. Once again there has been an extensive range of extra-curricular events this term and this highlights the willingness of your children to get involved and staff being prepared to go that extra mile in organising and running them. It really does bring our school to life!

You will recall that we began the process of merging our academy with three other successful local academies, Parkside GGI Academy, Victoria Academy and Yarlside Academy. We have now submitted our draft application to the Regional Schools Commissioner for the North of England and are confident that we will gain approval early in the New Year. These really are exciting times for us and our aim will be to spread the best practice in each school across the whole Trust – the best work on phonics, the best literacy and mathematics teaching, the most interesting exploration of science and of the world around us, the best in sport and the arts. In short, we must aim to give the best of everything to every child in our schools.

We are also delighted that so many young people and their families are choosing Furness Academy for their secondary education. So many, in fact, that the figures we have received from Cumbria County Council indicate that we will be oversubscribed next year. In light of this and the proposed merger we need to amend our Admission's Policy for the year 2020-21 and have started a period of consultation. Please visit our website and follow the links if you would like to comment.

I hope you enjoy reading our newsletter which is crammed with all the stories of success, talent, academic progress and civic duty that our students, your children, have been up to just this term.

Staffing Update

Our best wishes go to Mrs Finnerty who embarked upon her maternity leave towards the end of this term and is due, very soon, to welcome her first child into the world. We all know the excitement and trepidation that this brings and we look forward to hearing about her good news soon. Sadly at this time we are also saying farewell to Jessica Birch, science technician, who is leaving us to go on to medical school and train to be a doctor. I have no doubt that she will approach it with the same diligence, intellect and care that we have been grateful for.

Our last day will be the delayed Christmas jumper / non-uniform day for all students and staff. We will ask for a voluntary contribution of £1.00 which will go to our school's chosen charities, *Cancer UK* and *MIND in Furness*.

We re-open in the New Year on **Monday 7 January 2019** and will continue to run our '**Magic Breakfast**', which is a free breakfast service for all students and staff that begins at 8:00am. It has been great to see nearly 100 students access it each day so far and I hope many more take up the offer in 2019.

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



TERM DATES 2019

SPRING TERM

Term Begins	Monday 7 January
Half Term	Monday 18 February – Friday 22 February
Term Ends	Friday 29 March

SUMMER TERM

Term Begins	Monday 15 April
Good Friday	Friday 19 April
Easter Monday	Monday 22 April
Bank Holiday	Monday 6 May
Half Term	Monday 27 May – Friday 31 May
Term Ends	Friday 19 July

AUTUMN TERM

Term Begins	Wednesday 4 September
Half Term	Monday 21 October – Friday 25 October
Term Ends	Friday 20 December