

Furness Academy  
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Our ref: SPL/mw

March 2019

Dear Parents and Carers

We are delighted to announce to you that the Regional Schools Commissioner's office has approved the application to merge the Furness Academies Trust with the Inspired Learning Trust. The new multi academy trust, sponsored by BAE Submarines, will be called the **Furness Education Trust** and will comprise of four schools, Furness Academy, Parkside GGI Academy, Victoria Academy and Yarlside Academy.

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 will aim to give the best of everything to every child in our schools.

Our approach will be led by our shared values, creating a sense of Trust identity and shared responsibility for what happens in our own school and in all the other schools in the Trust; to unlock the potential of every child, whatever it takes; to feel as responsible for giving children in other Trust schools outstanding educational opportunities as the children in our own school.

It is a really exciting time to be part of Furness Academy and this new venture and we are delighted that so many young people and their families want to share this journey with us. So many, in fact, that we are significantly oversubscribed for next year's Year 7 intake and we will be full for the second year running.

Many of you will be aware through our weekly news updates on the school website, Facebook page and from features in the local newspapers, our successes and activities this academic year have continued at a pace and the achievements of our students have been simply spectacular and never cease to impress me. More details will be found in our spring newsletter and I encourage you to take time to have a look at it. The activities, events and visits captured in the newsletter of course take a great deal of preparation to organise and run and I am grateful to the dedication and commitment of all the staff who give up their time in order to make these and others happen.

### **Staffing Update**

Congratulations to Mrs Rebecca Whyte and Mr Ian Barnes on their promotions to 'Raising Standards Leaders' in the English and Science departments respectively. With the new emphasis placed on schools to develop an even richer and more coherent curriculum, I am really pleased that these two new appointments, alongside Mr Martin Smith from the Maths department, will give us some 'real skin in the game' and further enhance the quality of education that we offer to our students.

We also say farewell to Matt Bargh from our IT support department. Matt represents that group of staff who quietly go about their business trouble shooting problems for other people in a calm and professional manner. His ability to problem solve quickly and help avert a crisis is second to none and I know he will be sorely missed. We wish him all the very best in his new exciting venture with BAE. I often feel that one of the ways Furness Academy has the edge is in the quality and dedication of its staff who really bring special qualities. Matt has been a classic example of this for over 6 years and fully deserves every success in his future employment.

### **End of Term Arrangements**

This academic term will end on **Friday 29 March 2019** at the normal finishing time of 3:10pm. We will re-open for students at 8:40am on **Monday 15 April 2019**.



Furness Academies Trust  
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Finally, many of our students are now fast approaching the business end of school and the summer exam season is nearly upon us. Some have already started and I know that students and staff are working hard to ensure that any deadlines for work are met in good time and final plans have been made to ensure that everyone is using their time as productively as possible. I appreciate that it is a very tense time for the students and also for their families. Thank you in advance on behalf of the school for all your support during this time and their success will be built upon the efforts of everyone involved. Good luck to everybody and, like you, we will be waiting for the results every bit as anxiously, in the hope that if our final predictions are realised this will be another super year.

Yours faithfully



Mr S P Laheney  
**Headteacher**