



A Happy New Year to all of our students, parents and staff and welcome back to students and staff to what will be an extremely important term in the academy. Working in partnership with parents and other stakeholders is very important to us and this term it will be critical to the students' pursuit of their Personal Best that parents support this by ensuring that students arrive everyday, on time, in the right uniform, suitably resourced for school and ready and wanting to learn.

Year 11s are showing good signs of progress with their mock results and predicted grades but it is disappointing that only 50% of the parents of Year 11 students attended a 'mock results day' in which important results, advice and guidance were issued and discussed with relevant staff. We will now try again to reach those who were unable to attend and hope for a better response this time around. Only by working together can we hope to achieve personal best outcomes for our learners.

This term Years 8 and 9 will select their new "Learning Pathways" involving GCSE courses in September and, where appropriate, additional support in English and/or Mathematics. Parent support evenings will be held soon and these too need the support of parents in order that parents are both fully informed and able to support the progress of their children in the best way they can.

Finally, for now, this is a tense time regarding new build plans. Planning submission has been made to the Local Authority and we await an anticipated outcome in late February with bated breath. Barrow, more specifically the academy, is very fortunate to have avoided the scything public spending cuts that have affected 750 other new build projects. We just need planning permission to be granted now so we can really press on with our plans to bring the finest possible resources to the young people of this town in order to support our relentless determination to deliver outstanding provision and results for our students. The future looks to be really exciting for one and all so please, all parents, support your child by supporting the academy in the best way you can. Your child's future depends on it!

Kindest regards,

Doug Blackledge