

Furness Academy  
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Barrow in Furness  
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LA13 9BB

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20 September 2021

Dear Parents and Carers

It has been wonderful to see our students return to school and the classrooms filled with the noise and energy that only young people can bring. Despite the regimented lunchtime and break arrangements, the directed movements within the corridors, increased handwashing and sanitising stations, there is still a strong sense of normality and we are grateful to be operating without the need for 'bubbles'. Staff and students have returned swiftly to the normal routines and lessons are underway with real purpose. Our new Year 7 students have made a super start to their new school and we look forward to all that lies ahead in the coming term.

I would also like to take this opportunity to welcome all of the new teaching staff we have starting with us this year and they are listed below. As you will be aware, Furness Academy has grown in popularity over the past few years and has been significantly oversubscribed with applicants for Year 7 places. We approach that time of year again and parent/carer(s) of Year 6 students will be busy considering which secondary school to choose and judging by the turnout at our recent 'Open Evening', we expect another bumper year in 2022.

**New teaching staff:**

Mr James Bailey	Teacher of Spanish
Mr Hanley Campbell	Teacher of Maths
Miss Hannah Fish	Teacher of Science
Mrs Maria Hassan	Teacher of Science
Mr Cameron Lee	Teacher of Science
Mr Robert Ogden	Teacher of History
Miss Lauren Pugh	Teacher of Science

The strength of our student numbers enables us to plan ahead with confidence and proceed with a number of projects as intended. Of course, now that a number of restrictions imposed by the pandemic have been lifted we can hope to proceed with more speed.

I would like to draw your attention to some key information and reminders.

**Homework**

We know that all the academic research tells us the importance of homework to students' success at secondary school and beyond. It is, therefore, vital that students develop the good habits of studying outside of their timetabled classes. Each student will receive a homework timetable and we ask, as always, for your unwavering support here to ensure that your child is not left behind. Please do contact us if you have any concerns.

**Road Safety**

Thank you to the vast majority of 'school run' parents and carers who do, indeed, exercise safe, considerate and lawful practice with regard to dropping off and picking up their children at Furness Academy. Please continue to do this in the best interests of everyone's safety.

However, can I remind the small number of parent/carer(s) who pull up on the double yellow lines or, even worse, the zig zags leading to the pedestrian crossing, or use the academy access road to carry out 'U' turn manoeuvres, to resist the temptation to do this as it is neither safe, nor legal, and adds to the congestion problems in the immediate vicinity of the academy, thus further compromising safety. Thank for you co-operation and understanding in this matter.



Furness Education Trust  
Company No. 06895426  
Registered Address:  
Park Drive, Barrow-in-Furness, Cumbria LA13 9BB



### **National COVID-19 vaccination programme for 12 – 15 year olds**

You will no doubt have picked up in the national media, the national COVID-19 vaccination programme for 12-15 year olds starting today in English schools. We understand that there are a number of viewpoints regarding this particular vaccine, but we hope you understand that our school has always been used as a location to enable the NHS and their Immunisation Team to do their important work. Please be reassured that the usual consent process will be in place and no child will be vaccinated without parental approval. Provisionally, we have been given 4 and 5 October as our vaccination dates and a further letter solely about the vaccination programme and including the consent form will follow this week.

Finally, you may be aware that due to the Queen's Platinum Jubilee in 2022 there is an additional bank holiday to be taken, this academic year. As the national date falls within the May/June half term break, schools have to adjust their term dates to accommodate an additional day of holiday. We have decided to take this additional bank holiday on **Friday 26 November**, therefore, school will be closed on this date and will reopen again on Monday 29 November.

Thank you, as always, for your support and co-operation.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'S.P. Laheney', with a horizontal line underneath.

Mr S P Laheney  
**Headteacher**