



28 March 2022

Dear Parents/Carers

After a period of writing regular letters to our parents and carers, I am sure you have recognised that there has been a slightly longer interval between my last letter and this one. The period between the February break and now has been a busy one. It has also seen a welcome return of many of the activities and opportunities which schools used to run in abundance.

Our Year 11 and Year 13 students have now completed two sets of pre-public examinations. While we have to keep these papers in preparation for any last minute changes to the examinations schedule, I am now extremely confident that examinations will run as normal this year. It is pleasing to see how our examination year groups have really focused on their learning this term, with many demonstrating real improvements in their knowledge and understanding. I would like to thank you, on behalf of all the staff at Guilsborough, for the support and encouragement you are giving to those taking exams this year.

A number of other year groups have also had assessments this term and the results of these have been shared through our online platform Go4Schools. If you have misplaced your login details please contact the academy.

### Improving opportunities for all our students

I noted above the increased extra-curricular activities now taking place. So far this term we have:

- taken part in a number of sports fixtures against other local schools. Results for these are being shared on our website and through other social media channels
- hosted a rock and pop 'Live Lounge' evening – photos are available on our website
- taken groups of students on educational visits to the coast
- taken students to London's Fortune Theatre to watch 'A Woman in Black'
- taken students to WB Harry Potter Studios
- completed bronze and silver Duke of Edinburgh expeditions
- launched the 2023 World Challenge expedition to Cambodia
- facilitated a contemporary Dance workshop
- delivered Elevate Education workshops to support Years 11 and 10 with their GCSE examination preparation

In addition, we have also planned to:

- visit the ballet to watch a performance of 'The Great Gatsby'
- complete further bronze, silver and gold Duke of Edinburgh expeditions
- offer all our Year 10 and Year 12 students a work experience placement in the summer term.
- Elevate Education workshops to support the study skills of our Year 7-9 cohorts

Further information about these will be sent to you after the Easter break.

It is so important that we are able to further expand our extra-curricular offer and encourage our students to see their time at school as more than just learning English, Maths, Science etc.

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## Ready to make the most of every lesson

Two weeks ago, I presented assemblies to all students in Years 7-10. The focus of those assemblies was very much about making the most of the opportunities on offer. Too much of our time is spent dealing with a lack of equipment and encouraging a minority of students to move to their lessons more quickly. I have been clear with all our students that these things are delaying learning and causing disruption to lessons.

Straight after the Easter break we will be expecting all our students to attend lessons with the equipment they require for learning, and will be challenging them when this is not the case. A full list of the necessary equipment is listed on our website and is copied here:

- Black pens (x2)
- Pencil
- Ruler (preferably 30cm)
- Calculator (the academy recommends a Scientific Calculator (Casio fx-83GTX )
- Pencil sharpener
- Rubber
- Reading book for years 7-9

In addition, the following are also advised:

- Maths set including protractor and a pair of compasses
- Highlighters

We would like all students to keep their equipment in a pencil case. This will help them to keep their equipment organised and prevent it from being lost or broken.

## Celebrating National Neurological Diversity Week

During this week a number of our Sixth Form students have been presenting assemblies to each year group celebrating the many differences between us which helps to make us unique. While drawing attention to Dyslexia, Dyspraxia, ADHD and Autism, the Sixth Form celebrated the strengths which those with these neurological conditions often possess.

## Working with our Parents and Carers

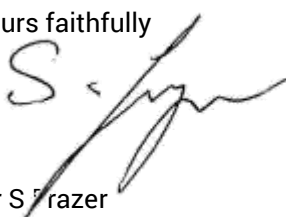
One of the many changes to come from the COVID pandemic and the wishes of our parents and carers is the move to remote parents' evenings. However, we would usually complete our regular surveys during these evenings. While we have done this following Year 11 and Year 12 parents' evenings, we have not done so with other year groups. Therefore, I have included in this letter a link to a survey we would like our parents and carers of children in other year groups to complete. The feedback will support us in ensuring we respond to the priorities of our students, parents and carers.



[Link to survey here](#)

Moving forward, we will return to sending surveys to each year group following their parents' evening.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'S. Frazer', written over a light blue horizontal line.

Mr S Frazer  
Principal