



8 July 2022

Learning Without Limits

Dear Parents/Carers

## Celebrating Success

As we approach the end of a very busy term, we are looking forward to the celebration events we have planned. Next week will see the launch of our annual end of year celebration evenings during which we will be thanking students who have demonstrated the highest achievement and made the most progress in each subject. There are also awards being presented for sports leadership as well as Head of Year awards and Principal awards. These awards will recognise a significant number of our students and allow us to celebrate the fantastic contribution they make to our community.

In addition to the celebration evening, 250 students have also been afforded the opportunity to visit Drayton Manor as a reward for their consistent hard work and excellent attitude to learning. I recognise the concerns of those parents who are disappointed that their child was not selected for this first rewards trip. However, we have listened to our students and will be increasing the number and frequency of such rewards during 2022/23.

Last week, we held our first in-person summer concert for three years. This was a fantastic event attended by well over 100 parents/carers and staff. The evening was a celebration of all things musical, from classical pieces to more contemporary performances including music and lyrics written by students themselves. To single out anyone would be wrong so I am writing to all performers to share my personal appreciation for their contribution.

## Guilsborough Uniform

Maintaining high standards of uniform is a challenge in many secondary schools and academies. I am keen that we remove barriers and make it easier for all members of the community to understand and follow our uniform policy.

From September 2022, all students in Years 7-11 will wear our full school uniform including a shirt, tie and blazer. The change in uniform for Year 11 in previous years led to an increase in the number of students who chose to wear other, non-uniform, items of clothing. With families already having white shirts, ties etc, we can reduce the need for families to purchase additional items which are only going to be worn for one year.

Whilst students have already been informed of this change with the information shared prior to the summer half-term break, I am aware that a parent/carer communication, which was due to be sent in May, was not delivered. I apologise for this.

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As students' progress through Year 11, I am aware that parents/carers will not wish to purchase another blazer, should their child outgrow the one they are currently wearing. To further support parents/carers during these challenging financial times, we will be looking at how we can manage this. I have already spoken to a number of our current Year 10 students and they have been understanding of the change.

I would also like to take this opportunity to remind all our families that the academy has a hardship fund and we encourage any family who is struggling with uniform costs to contact us about the possibility of support. We are currently investigating suppliers for 2023/24 to further reduce the costs of uniform. In addition, the PTA are keen to expand our pre-loved supplies. We already keep a limited stock of uniform which is available free of charge and we are looking to expand this availability.

Our updated Uniform policy has been attached to this letter and is available on our website [here](#)

### **Staying Safe Online**

Over the past few weeks, leaders have had conversations with a number of students about their use of social media. It has been apparent on a number of occasions that some of our students are happy to add contacts to their accounts even if they do not personally know the individual concerned. As an academy we cover on-line safety in great detail and encourage all our students to use social media in an appropriate manner.

It is well reported that those wishing to harm or cause offense will often use fake social media accounts to gain access to young people. While we will continue our work in this area and will make sure we reinforce these messages at the start of the new academic year, I ask that you also have appropriate conversations at home about the dangers of adding unknown people to social media accounts and then engaging in conversations with these individuals.

Finally, I'd like to take this opportunity to wish everyone a pleasant summer.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'S. Frazer', written in a cursive style.

Mrs S Frazer  
Principal