



25 October 2024

Dear Parents/Carers

As we fast approach the end of the longest term in the year, I know many of you will be keen to hear feedback from our monitoring visit earlier this week. While I am tied to confidentiality and unable to give specific details until the letter is published, more on the timing of that later, I will say that we are pleased with the visit and the likely letter to follow.

Guilsborough Academy is on a journey of rapid improvement and our students are the driving force behind that improvement. The staff and Trustees of the school are here to provide a high quality education to our students and that high quality can only be delivered when there is an environment in which the students feel safe and secure. This leads to high levels of engagement and improved outcomes. It is a reflection on the staff and students that such an environment was observed by His Majesty's Inspector (HMI). Our students, who were selected by the HMI, were amazing and the feedback we received on this, again from the HMI, was very positive. Obviously I cannot go into any details at this time.

Due to half-term (Ofsted consider working weeks to be the school weeks) the letter will be received in draft form for accuracy checking in approximately 3 weeks, with the letter published in approximately 30 working days. Until the letter is formally published, the HMI was very clear that no specific details may be shared regarding the visit.

This term has been a very busy and hugely positive one. Senior leaders have already completed a significant number of visits to lessons and we continue to work with our external school improvement advisor who is also a registered inspector. Our work this term has been wide ranging, including:

- Annual staff training on Safeguarding, ASD, and Diabetes
- Teaching staff training on key aspects of pedagogy
- Launching our social action initiatives
- Launching our student Parliament
- Increasing the range of extra-curricular activities available - a number of trips and visits have already taken place alongside in-school clubs
- Improving the Personal Development curriculum and increasing the time given to this in the timetable.

The improved attitude to learning seen across the academy is fantastic. With 97% of all behaviour points across the academy linked to positive reasons, it is clear that our students are working hard, and this is being recognised. A special mention goes to our Year 7. With a total of 14017 positive events and only 77 negative events since the start of the year, the number of positives outnumber the negatives by 182 to 1!

As I always stress, attendance is a driver of attainment and progress, both academic and pastoral. While attendance has improved compared to the first term last year, we remain well below the level of attendance expected ($\geq 96\%$) and too many students are persistently absent ($< 90\%$). This is a particular concern for our students with Special Educational Needs. We cannot effectively support these students if they are not in school. Our 'Team around the Year' is here to support you and your child and as a reminder, Form Tutors remain your first point of contact.

Next term will see our Year 11 and Year 13 preparing for their first set of pre-public exams (mocks). This is a stressful time and we encourage you to get in touch if you feel your child is struggling.

In the meantime, I hope our students have a great half-term break and we look forward to welcoming them back with Celebration assemblies during the first week of Term 2.

Yours faithfully

Mr S Frazer
Principal

Guilsborough Multi Academy Trust

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