

The Ferrers News



13 October 2017

The students, parents, carers and staff at The Ferrers have really packed a huge amount into the first 30 school days and I cannot believe that we have reached the end of the penultimate week of Term 1 already.

As the new Head Teacher, I make no apology for wanting to increase our standards and expectations further to ensure that all of our students make better progress and secure the excellent outcomes they deserve. Improvement drives relating to Behaviour for Learning and the Level of Challenge will be a key focus over the coming months.

Students will tell you that I have spent a lot of my time this term out and about in lessons and I would like to personally thank all of the students who are approaching their studies in a focussed and purposeful way with a positive 'can do' approach. This very much supports our Growth Mind-Set work and will go a long way in helping to build up their resilience to meet the demands of the reformed qualifications at Key Stage 4 and 5.

At the start of term, we introduced an expected standard for the presentation of work in books. Many students are now getting to grips with these expectations, but as parents you can support us further by ensuring that your children come to school ready to learn with the correct equipment (listed on the next page). We value working in partnership with parents and are thankful that the overwhelming majority of our students attend school, arriving on time, wearing their uniform with pride and being ready to learn.

Whilst attendance figures are improving and show an improvement on the same period during the previous academic year, we have aspirations to improve attendance even further. We are very grateful for the support of parents in promoting very high levels of attendance and ensuring that absences only occur in exceptional circumstances. To support this there will be a new prize draw to recognise students who have had 100% attendance this term - the student with 100% drawn out in each Key Stage will win a £25.00 voucher.

In driving forward our motto of '**Aspire, Achieve, Acclaim**', we have had a very busy term and many parents, carers and students have already attended; a Celebration Evening for Key Stage 4 and 5; two Curriculum Evenings for Key Stage 4 students; a Year 11 into 12 event for those wishing to join The East Northants College for their post 16 studies and also a Year 7 Tutor evening to support the transition from primary school. Furthermore, all Year 11 students have had 1:1 interviews as part of the 'Make the Grade Programme' which runs alongside their subject studies.

In addition to the academic and curriculum foci, we have been busy supporting charities, running auditions and embarking upon rehearsals for our next school extravaganza 'High School Musical'. We also have over 120 students involved in the Duke of Edinburgh Award scheme. Many students have taken part in our wide ranging extra-curricular clubs and sporting events representing The Ferrers by competing against other local schools.

We are very much looking forward to Term 2 and ask that you look ahead at the key dates for your diary shown overleaf.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs Angela Smith

Supporting Learning & Maximising Success through Edmodo To support homework and extended learning opportunities we use a learning platform site called Edmodo. As parents you can also login. To set up your Edmodo parental login please ask your son or daughter for their Edmodo parental code. You will then be able to see all of their homework and when it is due. Login here at www.edmodo.com.

Lighting Up Our School

In our quest to become more environmentally sustainable, we've invested in new LED lighting that has had a fabulous impact in our corridors and classrooms, this is especially beneficial with the darker winter months fast approaching. The LED lights are up to 90% more efficient than the traditional incandescent bulbs. Annually these new lights will save 107 tonnes of CO₂ per year. We will continue to support other environmental initiatives like; computer shut down, recycling and automatic light switch off in some communal areas.

Celebrating Participation Through Primary Liaison

Many thanks to Miss York for arranging our Primary School visits. I have had a fantastic time working with some of our new Year 7 students and visiting their previous primary schools to see the Year 6 students who will be choosing secondary school places imminently. Many thanks to all the staff at Alfred Street, Denfield Park, Henry Chichele, Higham Ferrers Juniors, Risdene, Southend Juniors and Whitefriars for making us so very welcome.

Safeguarding Update

There is a vast amount of information and guidance on the internet regarding online safety and we encourage our students to follow safe practice. However, if you would like information about keeping your child safe online, we would like to signpost you to the online resources from CEOP (Child Exploitation and Online Protection Centre) for students, parents and carers which can be found at <https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/>

Sporting Achievements & Results

We have taken part in some brilliant fixtures in Football, Netball and Rugby across all year groups. In continuing to develop our 'My Personal Best' attributes, you will see below recognition for **resilience, collaboration, and teamwork**.

Football: Recognition goes to Frankie in Year 8 who demonstrated resilience in playing in defence; helping the U13 Girls' Football team win their National Cup game 3-2 v Hinchingsbrooke School.

In addition, Year 8 won 9-2 v Huxlow and Year 7 won 14-2 v Wrenn.

Recognition for outstanding collaboration & resilience to Ryley, Jack, Thomas & Kristers

Netball Results - Well done to all team members in Year 9, 10 & 11 who deserve recognition for teamwork

Year 9 drew 10-10 v Huxlow and won 12-2 v Wrenn

Year 10 won 22-2 v Huxlow and won 8-5 v Wrenn

Year 11 won 17-8 v Huxlow

Year 9 won 33-3 v Rushden

Year 10 won 29-1 v Rushden

Rugby Collaboration recognition for excellent coaching to; James, Jason, Diya & Robert and recognition for excellent teamwork in the Year 9 Rugby festival.

Year 9 won v Rushden 6 tries to 4 tries and Year 9 drew v Manor, 5 tries each.

Recognition also goes to Tami, Aaron, Jack & Shaq for outstanding resilience.

Congratulations to Alice, Year 11, who has been selected to play U18 East Midlands Rugby following trials this weekend. This is a huge achievement for her as the U18 squad are selected from Year 11, Year 12 and Year 13 girls from across Northamptonshire, Beds, Cambs, and South Lincolnshire. Well done Alice!

Trampolining Collaboration recognition for excellent coaching goes to; Ella Year 9, Matthew & Isabel in Year 10

Uniform Reminders:

Whilst the majority of students are still looking very smart and wearing their uniform with pride, I would like to remind parents that trousers must be full length and not of the cropped variety and skirts should be knee

length and not made of lycra. If you are purchasing new school uniform ready for Term 2, I hope you will support us by consulting our website where there is detailed information regarding our uniform expectations. We would also like to remind you that trainers are not allowed. From **September 2018**, we will enforcing this aspect of the uniform policy fully and will be expecting all students to be wearing school shoes.

Therefore, if you are buying or replacing school shoes in the meantime, please ensure that they are leather or leather like shoes and not branded trainers (even if they are black with black laces!) - more details on shoes will follow during this academic year.

Our start of the year School Information Pack for Parents and Carers contains key 'need to know' information regarding our uniform expectation , please visit our website www.theferrers.org, or click [here](#).

Ready to Learn: Equipment Checklist for Term 2

All students are expected to come to school every day with the equipment they need to be 'Ready to Learn'. This should include:

Pen (blue or black),

Ruler,

Pencil,

Eraser,

Calculator,

Reading book,

Appropriate school bag, large enough to carry everything needed.

In addition, for specific subjects:

Geometry set,

PE kit,

Dance kit,

Ingredients for Food Technology lessons

Key Dates for your Diary

Date	Year group	Event
16th October	Year 6	Year 6 into 7 Open Evening
20th October	All	School closes at 3.25pm for half term break
Term 2		
30th October	All	School closed for Teacher Training Day
31st October	All	School re-opens to all students
10 th November	Year 10	Geography trip to London
16 th November	Year 11	Core Curriculum Information Evening
17 th November	Year 8	Black Country Museum trip
7 th December	Year 9	Options Evening
11 th December	All	Christmas Carol Service
13 th December	Year 9	Birmingham Christmas Market trip
18 th December	Year 7	Christmas Bowling trip
20 th December	All	School closes for Christmas holiday
Term 3		
4 th January	All	School re-opens to all students