



**27<sup>th</sup> July 2022**

Dear parents, carers and families

I am writing this at the end of a very long term. I've only worked in Nottingham since April 2021, but the length of this summer term has taken me by surprise on both occasions. The last weeks have been eventful, and we have seen sports day, examinations, unprecedented heat, trips all over the country, and a fantastic transition event for our new year six cohort. We also met with Year 10 parents last week, who were able to attend our information evening about Year 11.

At the end of the year, you always look back as well as looking forward. I am proud of the way we have moved Farnborough forward over the last year, and know that feedback from parents and the community has improved as the year has gone on. Being Principal is the best job in the world, even though it can sometimes be a little tiring. I'd like to thank all the parents, students and staff who have worked so hard to bring our school together. We will continue to move Clifton's Academy forward together in the new year. We are expecting a visit from Ofsted in the new academic year, and we eagerly anticipate the chance to share our journey with them too.

I am proud that we are (almost) fully staffed for September. In the current climate, being fully staffed with specialist teachers is a wonderful achievement and I can't wait to see our renewed team back in September. We do still have learning support assistant vacancies, and will be interviewing over the summer, the advert for which can be found here <https://vacancies.spenceracademiestrust.co.uk/> . If you know anyone that might be interested, please encourage them to get in touch. That said, every school year brings with it some goodbyes, and I'd like to use this letter to thank the following staff who will be leaving us this summer.

- Mrs Kennedy – Attendance Officer
- Mr Leung – Learning Support Assistant
- Mr McCarter – Head of Year 10
- Miss Wilde – Pastoral Support Officer
- Mrs Rivers – Associate Assistant Principal and SENDCO
- Mr Nabbs – Lead Teacher (maths)
- Ms Brown – Lead Teacher (English)
- Ms Greenfield – Head of Science
- Mrs Paling – Catering Assistant
- Ms Bessa – English Teacher
- Ms Sweales – Head of Year 7



I like this quote “you can’t start the next chapter of your life if you keep re-reading the last one”. As we return to the Academy in September, it’s important that we have our eyes open to a new start, that we turn the page and return revitalised.

Whatever your plans, I wish you well for the summer. I’m off for my honeymoon which has been cancelled twice due to the pandemic, so fingers crossed we make it safely this time. We look forward to seeing students return in September.

### **Reminder of start of term information**

In September, students will have a staggered return to the Academy as detailed below.

#### **Monday 5th September**

- All new Year 7 students to attend the Academy for a day of induction. Students should be onsite by 08:30 and the day will finish at 15:00.
- Years 8-11 (current years 7-10) do not need to attend the Academy on this day.

#### **Tuesday 6th September**

- All Year 7 and Year 11 students (current Year 10) to attend the Academy for a full day. Students should be onsite by 08:30 and the day will finish at 15:00 as normal.
- Years 8-10 (current years 7-9) do not need to attend the Academy on this day.

#### **Wednesday 7th September**

- All students in all year groups to attend the Academy from this day. Students should be onsite by 08:30 and the day will finish at 15:00 as normal.

### **Principal’s Autograph Book:**

Staff have been nominating students to sign my Autograph Book for exceptional progress, going above and beyond, or for producing an outstanding piece of work. They then receive a proud badge and receive a letter highlighting their accomplishments. We are very proud of the following students’ achievements in academic subjects and in the wider Academy community:

Henrietta B  
Abbie L  
Ruby F  
Bella B  
Kallum S  
Brooklyn F  
Sophia H  
Mohammed A  
Angel W  
Holly B  
Sharna A-R  
McKenzie C  
Lilah D

Leila L  
Harry S  
Oakley B  
Declan E S  
Robert B  
Raven B  
Covenant A  
Isabella S  
Mehnaz R  
Alfie E  
Amy S  
Daniel S  
Reece G

Zarin M  
Lola F  
Katie S  
Matthew C  
Charlie B  
Emil W  
Kaydee W  
Pavan K  
Sophie A  
Kathleen M  
Elsie M  
Ziah



## **Languages:**

Year 7 have experienced a French breakfast this half term and have had to ask for their pain au chocolat and jus d'orange in French..miam miam! (Yummy)

Year 8 enjoyed viewing and participating in French talent! Not only did some students have a go at Tehtonik dancing but also contestants from the French version of Britain's Got Talent were judged by year 8!

Year 9 have experienced more French culture by looking at holiday destinations and how French people spend their 9 weeks holidays. Most pupils were only slightly jealous!

Year 10 pupils have participated in a pen pal exchange with a German school speaking French. In the class we have debated in French and experienced French cultural television programmes to help improve listening skills.

## **Reward Trip: Think Tank**

Year 7 and 8 students had a great day at Think Tank science museum in Birmingham on 26th July.

They got lots of opportunities to get hands on with science, including programming robots, fixing cars, students went on giant hamster wheel and even operated a digger! A great day was had by all involved!

## **Humanities:**

Students have had a great year working hard in Humanities. Highlights from History include year 8 students writing excellent letters from the World War 1 trenches, getting them very excited about the residential trip to see the trenches themselves in France and Belgium in November 2022. (A small number of places are still available, please contact Miss Carter for further details.)

Miss Carter was delighted to take a group of students who entered a historical writing competition to Waterstones in Nottingham where they spent several happy hours surrounded by books and got to choose their own prize.

Our year 10 Geographers have completed their GCSE fieldwork visits to the River Trent and to Birmingham city centre, to conduct site studies and collect data. They loved exploring the Bullring and to experience the bustle of the packed city centre. Thankfully we just avoided the heat wave for our trips!

In RE students have really impressed Mrs Higgs this year by getting involved in deep philosophical debates. We have been so proud of our students who have shared aspects of their own faith with their classes, adding real life experiences to our lessons.



## **Science:**

Year 11 have worked really hard in preparation for their mock and final exams and have achieved the Academy's best Science mock GCSE grades ever and are expected to get our best GCSE results to date!

Year 10 have also coped really well with their first round of GCSE mocks showing resilience and commitment achieving strong grades which will put them in a fantastic stead for starting their GCSE year.

Key Stage 3 groups have had a great experience studying and conducting 4 GCSE required practicals and have shown excellence attempting GCSE level extended questions.

## **Technology:**

In Year 7 Art, DT and Food, pupils have been engaging with our Nottingham Project. The idea is to give pupils another run through each of the rotation subjects at the end of the year, but it's also an opportunity for pupils to take pride in the city they live in. They've looked at architecture inspired by Watson Fothergill in Art; the work of Paul Smith in Textiles; created their part of the Nottingham Eye in DT; and deconstructed or layered desserts in the style of Sat Bain in Food lessons. It's been a joy to see the work of the pupils and hope it opens their eyes as they explore this Summer. Some pupils have even been invited to sign the Principal's Autograph book for the quality of their work.

In Computing, across all of Key Stage 3, it's been brilliant to have pupils in school for a full year, giving them the chance to experience the curriculum in its fullest! This has meant lots of programming as we draw the year to a close. Year 7 pupils have produced some fantastic games and worlds in Kodu. Year 8 have both made challenging 'impossible maze' games in Scratch, but have also programmed using a language called Python. Year 9 too have been programming in Python, producing programs to draw, to tell people about laws and created login programs. Hopefully amongst those pupils we have a budding Bill Gates or Ada Lovelace!

## **Music:**

Daniel S and Crystal B attended a week's rehearsal with The Robin Hood Youth Orchestra in a cultural exchange trip with the partnering German Youth Orchestra. This involved a week's residential in the Peak District, culminating in a performance at the Albert Hall.

## **Duke of Edinburgh's Award**

**Volunteering:** Year 9 - Natasha B, Oli S, Liam W

Year 10 - Milly E, Lara H

**Skills:** Year 9 - Daniel D, Lucas H, Liam W, Kyro W



**Physical:** Year 9 - Lucy B, Natasha B, Daniel S, TJ S, Oli S, Kyro W

Year 10 - Milly E, Jasmine H, Lara H

Year 9 completed their expedition in some very hot weather in July, and they all did an excellent job! The teams completed a practice and training expedition in June in Nottinghamshire in preparation for their qualifying expedition in Loughborough. The qualifier was assessed, which meant that the participants were judged on their map reading, teamwork, campcraft and cooking. 9 participants completed the section, and Daniel S, TJ S and Oli S have completed their three other sections which means it won't be long until they've achieved the full award. Well done everyone!

There's still time for current participants to get sections signed off so they can receive their full award certificate in the autumn term.

A big thank you for all the support from parents of participants this year, as well as all the staff who have volunteered their time to support the award.

Recruitment for September's cohort (current Year 8s) has begun, and we already have 10 students signed up - although we'd love this to be many more! Registration is £30 and the award runs across the academic year, with training sessions weekly after school. Contact Miss Carter for more information.

### **LGBT+ Group**

LGBT+ group spent June celebrating Pride Month, including learning about the history of Pride. We were lucky enough to be invited into Mrs Roberts textiles room to do some t-shirt painting too, in preparation for our Pride Party at the end of June. We invited everyone in school to celebrate 'being yourself', and enjoyed a buffet, music and socialising.

Recently the group has started planning sessions for next year - lots of exciting things to come!

We've also been informed that one of our students was a finalist in the national LGBT+ History Month badge design competition, and although they didn't win, will receive a certificate and badge. Well done!

LGBT+ group is open to all students who want to learn, support each other, educate and campaign.

### **Maths:**

Four schools in the trust have piloted Sparx for homework with year 7 this year. Amelia G achieved the second highest number of XP points and Ava-Leigh G ranked fourth of all students in the 4 schools involved in the Sparx pilot this year.



## Year 11 Residential Trip to PGL Caythorpe

Over the weekend of the 19th to the 21st March a group of 24 year 11 pupils along with their Head of Year and two members of the Maths faculty attended a PGL outdoor pursuit centre.

The visit, aimed at strengthening working relationships between the students and their teachers, saw everyone enjoying a mixture of academic and practical activities. Science colleagues joined the group on the Saturday braving high wire and climbing walls with the students before settling down to some Science revision later in the afternoon.

On the Sunday morning the students were involved in Maths revision sessions before team building activities on a giant climbing ladder and air rifle shooting in the afternoon. Everyone returned safely to school later that evening.

The PGL centre staff were extremely complementary about our students and we all thoroughly enjoyed the weekend with some excellent weather, great food and brilliant company.

Kiara O - She has found maths very difficult this year but has, in spite of some tears, persisted and worked hard. culminating in her smashing her end of year test. Well done. Hard work pays off.

The headline figures for KS3 maths are that 74.16% of our year 7, 73.91% of our year 8 and 60% of our year 9 are at least in line with where they should be when compared to other students across the trust. This has been a continual improvement each year and this is thanks to the Maths department for giving the young people a first-class education and genuinely we are very **proud** of where they stand.

The following pupils all achieved highly in their end of year maths exams when compared to thousands of other pupils across the trust.

### **Year 7**

Charlie B  
Shay S  
Mehnez R

### **Year 8**

Sophia H  
Kathleen M  
Connor H  
Kaden M  
Adhvik R  
Pavan K  
Orestis B  
Joseph L  
Abdulrahman A  
Lilah D  
Marley F-W  
Keira T  
Finley A  
Owen W

### **Year 9:**

Daniel S  
London G  
Sapphire B  
Brooke B  
Scarlet M  
Mazie S  
Rosemary L  
Lucas H  
Lola K-J  
Keira O

Year 10 achieved highly in their end of year maths mocks, achieving nearly double the pass percentage of last year's cohort. Special mentions go to the following students for their top grades:

Samuel K  
Rian M  
Emily W  
Conner D

Luke L  
Riley T  
Callum F

## **English**

The English Team are extremely proud of Year 10 for completing their speaking and listening exams. The students chose a variety of different topics and spoke about them confidently and eloquently.

## **Ski Trip**

Next year we will be taking 54 students from Years 7, 8 and 9, on the 1000-mile trip to Artesina, Italy for 5 days of skiing. It is the first time the Academy has organised a ski trip and the interest from students and parents has been incredible, with all 54 places filling up in just under 4 weeks. The trip will include 4 hours of ski tuition per day as well as experiencing some Italian culture with trips around the local town, pizza nights, learning some Italian language and even a spot of Karaoke. Updates are available through the Ski Trip page on the Farnborough Spencer Academy Facebook page.

Thank you for your continued support and we wish you all a restful holiday break in preparation for the new academic year in September.

Yours sincerely,



Mr G Smith  
Principal