



**12<sup>th</sup> September 2022**

Dear parents, carers and families,

### **Welcome back 2022**

I am delighted to have welcomed back our students to Farnborough last week. We now have nearly 900 students on roll and are full in Years 8, 9 and 10 (we are actually oversubscribed in these year groups). We have a small number of places in Year 7, so please do get in contact with the Academy if you are interested in one of these places. It has been great to see a much better level of attendance in the first week back, and we need to keep ensuring that our young people are in the Academy.

Year 7 have been a delight so far, and we are proud of the transition work that has meant they have settled really well – even if they do sometimes find it hard to find a classroom! They had a lovely afternoon on Friday supported by the Laureas sports teams having some sporting activities and considering target setting etc. for the year ahead.

We will soon be sending out a parent calendar, containing all the opportunities for parents to join us and find out information about their child.

### **Examination success 2022**

This summer saw some fantastic examinations success at Farnborough. Early indications are that we are likely to be achieving our **best ever progress score** and that is thanks to the hard work of students and staff combined with the support of parents and families. June 2022 saw the first public examinations since 2019, and we saw improvements across the board, especially in the academic subjects of English, Science, History, Geography and Maths, including at the very highest level. That said, Farnborough is an Academy where students followed a broad and balanced curriculum. We are proud of our young people who have excelled in vocational subjects such as Art, Photography, Sport and Catering.



WE ARE  
*Proud*



Star student Angel achieved a bumper set of top grades, including 2 grade 9s and 4 grade 8s, and she is now heading to study Biology, Chemistry and Maths at Rushcliffe Spencer Academy and intends to study medicine at university. Angel said "Farnborough did everything they could to support me on my journey, and gave me some really good advice. I am proud of how well I've done."

She was joined by Mahmood, Saffron and Siobhan who also secured the highest grades. Siobhan is heading to college to study Applied science, with the aim of studying Forensics at university. Mahmood and Saffron are also going to Rushcliffe Spencer to complete A Levels. Siobhan said "the breakfast and holiday revisions really helped with preparation, and Farnborough really helped me believe in myself."

We are proud of the achievements of all our young people this year. They have shown remarkable resilience and determination in ensuring that our Academy has achieved some of our strongest ever results. We look forward to hearing of their progress as they move to the next stage in their education. Our curriculum has ensured that students are prepared for the full range of next steps, including A Levels, BTECs and Apprenticeships.

## **HM Queen Elizabeth II**

As you will be aware, all at Farnborough are taking part in the mourning period for Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth. Her dedication to the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and to her other realms and territories is unparalleled and we thank her for her service. This is clearly an historic and sad time.

Farnborough Spencer Academy will observe the mourning period but we will also be open, so that we can continue to support our students, families and staff. Scheduled activities and events will continue as planned, unless we become aware of a reason not to. As you will be aware, there is a national holiday for the funeral on Monday 19<sup>th</sup> September, and Farnborough Spencer Academy will be closed on this day.

On Friday, students, visitors and staff observed an impeccable two-minute reflection and we also took the opportunity to reflect on her life during our tutor time. If you think your child may be experiencing particular upset due to the passing of The Queen, please do let us know so we can provide additional support if needed.

## **Second-hand uniform**

If you have any uniform items you no longer need (blazers, ties, trousers, skirts), please consider sharing them with the school. We are aiming to set up a second-hand uniform shop, which parents and carers may find useful at this time. Any donations should be passed to Mr Johnston and should be in good, wearable condition.



## Catering and Accessing Free School Meals

We would like to remind parents/carers of our catering system and how and when eligible pupils can access their Free School Meal allowance. sQuid gives parents the opportunity to monitor how and when pupils are spending money on their catering accounts. sQuid is the only way to top up your child's account, allowing them to spend at break and lunch time. Pupils eligible for Free School Meals automatically get their allowance of £2.30 added to their accounts prior to lunch time but AFTER break time. Therefore, all children wanting a snack/drink during break time must have money topped up via sQuid.

in addition, sQuid is the only form of payment available for additional curriculum activities such as music lessons as well as making payments towards any trips.

If you have any queries in regards to sQuid or our catering arrangements, please contact us at the Academy.

I will look forward to sharing further updates with you as we move through the term.

Yours sincerely,

Mr G Smith  
Principal