



5th December 2022

Dear parents, carers and families,

As ever, I am proud to be writing to you as we journey through the Autumn Term.

This letter contains just a flavour of the activities in the Academy over the last term. It's been a great start to the new Academic year, having achieved Good in all 4 judgments following a recent Ofsted Inspection. We are immensely proud of our Academy staff, students and wider community regarding this achievement. I know I shared this with you at the time, but we are proud of the achievement!

Following our successful report, we were visited by the Department for Education. They wanted to see how we worked and what we had in place to keep improving our Academy. They were very impressed with all they saw, and the students they spoke to. Our students really are the most fantastic young people, and I want to give them more opportunities to take part in events like this as we continue to move forward.



Synergy

Having moved to School Synergy at the start of the Year, we now have all students accessing their student portals for homework, class work and to view behaviour, achievement and attendance data. Since starting back after the half term break, we have now opened the communication gateway to enable parents to contact Heads of Year directly. This hopefully will be opened up to all teaching staff after Christmas to continue to improve home school communication. It is vitally important that if you have not already accessed you parent



School Synergy account, you do so as soon as possible. Please contact your child's Head of Year if you need further support.

We now have a new Head of Year 8 in post, Mr Stevenson, who we warmly welcome to the Academy Pastoral Team. As mentioned, please contact the pastoral team through Synergy should you have any queries or wish to discuss support for your child.

- Year 7 – Mrs Whittaker
- Year 8 – Mr Stevenson
- Year 9 – Mr Pickup
- Year 10 – Mr Atkinson
- Year 11 – Mr Thompson

This term, students have enjoyed many wonderful activities, with a host of further events planned in the remaining two weeks of term.

World Cup Event – England vs Iran

On 21st November 2022, students completed a range of activities linked to our PHSE curriculum where they considered the importance of diversity and human rights issues linked to the Football World Cup. They then watched the England vs Iran match together as an Academy. It was magnificent to watch our students, wearing their favourite football team shirts, celebrating the success and skill of the team players.

Students donated food as part of the above event, and we will be delivering all the tins of food shortly to the Hope Centre Foodbank.

Battlefields Trip

A selection of students also travelled to the Battlefields of Europe recently, having a reduced price thanks to funding from Chalke Valley History Trust. Following an incredibly early morning and a ferry crossing at Dover (a first for many students), the Battlefields trip started with a visit to the Hooze Crater museum. Students had the opportunity to visit a recreated trench, built in both the British and German styles, and to explore the huge collection of WW1 artefacts housed in the museum. Students also visited their first Commonwealth War Graves Commission cemetery, and learned about the architecture and the style of the cemetery areas. Students were excited to get into their 'apartments' for the weekend and we had dinner at the Peace Village hostel in Messines, Belgium.

Day two of the trip included an experience of WW1 uniform and equipment at the hostel, before visiting Essex Farm to discuss medical procedures during the war. Then we visited two contrasting cemeteries, Langemark (German) and Tyne Cot (CWGC). Students received some free time in Ypres where we bought Belgian waffles and chocolates before having our dinner in a restaurant. Finally, students went to the Menin Gate, where Daniel, TJ and Kayden were chosen to lay a wreath on behalf of the Academy.



On the third day we visited the grave of Noel Chavasse, a two-time Victoria Cross winner. We then visited Lijssenthoek cemetery, hearing many stories, including ones about those who were shot at dawn and Nellie Spindler, the only female buried there. The group finished by visiting Talbot House, an 'everyman' club open since 1915. Students and staff got to have a nice cup of tea, a tinkle on the piano and a game of chess, before exploring the house and visiting the chapel in the loft to close the tour.

The visit was a huge success and we hope to run it again in two years' time – keep your eyes peeled.

Many many thanks to Miss Carter, Mrs Malloney and Mr Beardsley for giving their weekend that our students can have this opportunity.

Christmas Performance

On the 14th December we will be holding our Christmas Performance show and we very much look forward to seeing you there.

 WE ARE *Proud*
**Farnborough Spencer
Academy Christmas
Showcase**
14th December - 6.30pm - 7.30pm Doors open 6pm
School hall - Free entry. Refreshments available.

Please email l.popp@thefarnboroughacademy.com for tickets!



Reverse Advent

Students are also taking part in our Reverse advent, whereby students can donate an item per day in the run-up to Christmas; items being sent to the local Foodbank.

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:

Kain D	Theo P	Lola K-J
Conner H	Josh H-A	Luka S
Caitlin S	Tia C	Sam B
Aarushi C	Sharna A	Alfie E
Mohammed A	Amelia B	Ewan A
Emil W	Millie H	Charlie C
Jasmine A-M	Amelia G	Jack R
Kaitlyn D	Sharna A-R	Jasmine H
TJ S	Daniel S	Jack B
Emily W	Hilliary S	Bailey F-W
Georgia K	Zarin M	Imarny D
Reece S	Oliwier N	Tyronne B
Joseph B	Courtney M	Korey T-K
Mohammed A-S	Logan E B	Keira L-T
Liam W	Kacie W	Adam H
Rhianna A	Sienna L	Tierry C
Keeley C	Lexi K	Tyler S
Amaris M-J	Lexie A	George C
Tom H	Sophie T	Deon T
Tom H-O	Paris P	
Lilee Mai H	Lucy M	

Languages:

Our new initiative to improve speaking foreign languages within the classroom has really taken off. KS3 students are enjoying taking part in a number of speaking activities and using their knowledge in "real world" scenarios.



Duke of Edinburgh:

The Bronze DofE participants are now mostly logged on to their online accounts and are getting started with their activities. Tina Hobday from Central Regional Office visited us to talk the students through getting their account set up. Some of the activities they are doing:

Volunteering	Physical	Skills
Summerwood Lane allotments Online research via Zooniverse ParkRun Litter picking Food bank	Table tennis Tap dancing Kickboxing Gym Golf	Cooking Learning a language Musical instrument Drawing Reading challenge

Participants have also begun their expedition training on Wednesdays after school by looking at contours and simple map reading. We hope to run the expeditions in May and June.

There is still a little time left if Year 9 students want to get involved - see Miss Carter for more details.

Silver participants have also started on their sectional activities, and we hope to be running the Silver expedition around the GCSE exam dates (Practice in April, qualifying in July)

Extra Curricular:

It has been another busy and excellent start for extra-curricular this year. There are over 20 clubs on offer with an ever-growing array of activities for pupils to attend and give a go. With so many pupils already attending regularly, we would love to see every pupil come to a club. There has been such a buzz around the different clubs that offer a great social element to meet new people and to try things differently to what you might experience during lessons. If there is a club you would like to be offered then speak to Mr Brewer who will try to help arrange this for you. Keep your eyes peeled for new clubs and tasters over the coming weeks.

LGBT+ Group:

LGBT+ group has started again positively this year with the election of a new committee - students nominated themselves to run for election and gave a short speech in front of others in the group before we voted. We have so far focused on some LGBT+ history and current news.

The LGBT+ group is open to all year groups and all students, LGBT+ and allies, on a Thursday after school.



Maths:

The following pupils were in the top ten most productive pupils on the Sparx Maths website last half term:

Oliwier N	Ava T
Amelia G	Bobby S
Sharna A-R	Warren C
Daniel S	Magdala W
Hillary S	Nanci Lou B

Performance:

PE have attended a number of competitions over the first half term and have some success stories to share. There are also some individual successes from students outside of the Academy.

- The Year 7 football team won 3 from 3 in their 11-a-side tournament and have qualified for the finals to be held in March 2023.
- The Year 9 handball girls attended the central venue league tournament and finished a very commendable 3rd taking home bronze medals.
- Table Tennis - Finished 3rd in the City Championships

A number of students representing professional, county and district teams:

- Luca S - Mansfield Town Football Club
- Lexi A - Notts County Football Club
- Trinity E - Notts County Football Club
- TJ S - Representing the Midlands in the Commonwealth Community Games Fishing tournament. Also selected for County Training Squad in Table Tennis too.
- Zsolt S - is representing Nottinghamshire as a County Cadet (U15s) in Table Tennis. He has recently competed in the British Junior Grandprix held in Blackpool. He also competes in the English Premier League.
- Molly L, Keira T and Livi P all competed in last season's Nottingham Junior Table Tennis League.

The Table Tennis players mentioned above practice at Clifton Table Tennis and have also represented the school.

- Trevor Kerry who is one of our local volunteers at Clifton Table Tennis (Term Time Thursday 6-8pm in the Sports Hall) got his call to represent England this Summer. He competed and won when playing at the 6 Nations Championships in the Isle of Man this summer



Music lessons have seen a very encouraging uptake with now over 30 students from across the Academy attending. These will be working towards grading this year. Spaces still available in Brass and Guitar!

Olivia F is also set to perform in the Nottingham Pantomime this year 'Puss in Boots'. Well done!

Ski Trip:

In 6 months, 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 winter holiday break in preparation for the New Year.

Yours sincerely,

Mr G Smith
Principal