



24th July 2023

Dear parents, carers and families,

I am writing with some pastoral updates before September. Over the next few days, we will be sending a letter to all families with news of the fantastic things that have been happening in the Academy this term.

Pastoral Teams for September

As we approach the end of the year, I would like to remind you of our Pastoral Teams heading into September. During this academic year we have made several appointments to our Pastoral Teams, and I am confident that they are well equipped to assist and guide your child through their time here with us. We are informing you in good time, so that we are prepared together for the start of the next academic year.

Year Group 2023-24	Head of Year	Assistant Head of Year
Year 7	Mr N Thompson	Mr D King
Year 8	Mr S Asif	Mrs A Young
Year 9	Mr R Stevenson	Mrs L McGoldrick
Year 10	Mr D Pickup	Mrs A Healey
Year 11	Mr J Atkinson	Ms M Bradley

School uniform and equipment expectations

Our Academy's school's uniform and equipment expectations are clearly outlined on our website:
<http://www.farnboroughspencer.com/uniform/>

I would urge you to focus on the sections relating to **acceptable trousers/skirt** and **jewellery/make up**. We often have an issue at the start of term with students who have had new piercings. I would like to make it explicitly clear that the **ONLY** jewellery permitted in school is one stud per ear and a wristwatch – **no clear retainers**. Students must wear the Academy **tie** at all times, those who arrive at school without one, will be provided with a tie at a cost of £7 added to your child's squid account.

We ask that the equipment we provide our students with is treated with respect. Therefore, to keep this safe, we expect that, from September, **all students bring a bag big enough to carry all their school equipment**. This bag should be big enough to hold several A4 size exercise books.

We loan a calculator to children if they don't have their own. This model is the Casio FX83GT-X. They will keep this calculator until they finish Y11. If the calculator is lost, there will be a charge of £10 added to the child's squid account. If you would like to buy your own, we recommend buying the Casio FX83GT-X, which is being replaced by the Casio FX83GT-CW for 2023. Minimum requirements are that the calculator must be scientific.

It is important that our students are smartly dressed at school and wear our uniform with pride – students who do not arrive in the correct uniform will be provided the item that they are missing in order for them to attend lessons as normal. This will ensure that there will be no barriers to students attending school.

Attendance reminders

Over the last few years, there has been a lot of disruption to your child's education, and this has had an impact on attendance. We now need to make sure we improve things. Some parents will have received separate correspondence where standards of attendance have not been good enough – outlining steps we will be taking to tackle this problem.

As you are aware, excellent attendance at school is critical to ensuring the best progress. This in turn means that our students have the best possible chances of success in the future. We expect all of our students to achieve the Farnborough Spencer Academy target of **97% attendance (a maximum of 5 days absence in the academic year)** - which parents, carers and families can closely monitor through Synergy:

- School attendance is central to **raising standards in education**
- Ensures all students can **fulfil their potential**
- Students need to attend school regularly to **benefit from their education**
- Missing out on lessons leaves children vulnerable to **falling behind**
- Children with poor attendance tend to **achieve less**

We want to reward those students who consistently display excellent levels of school attendance through initiatives including:

- Achievement points that contribute towards eligibility for end of year trips
- Weekly 100% attendance lottery in each Year Group for a gift voucher
- Termly highest attending Tutor Group reward – Pizza Party / Easter Eggs / Ice Cream Van
- Attendance challenges – including the Form Attendance Cup
- Year 11 students will receive a discount on their Prom ticket for each half-term they achieve 100% attendance
- End of year trip to Alton Towers for those with above 97% attendance all year

Many thanks for your support with this. I have also attached a copy of our term dates for the next academic year. Please ensure that you do not book family holidays during term time. It is essential that students aim to achieve the gold standard of at least 97% attendance to support their achievement.

Lates to school

From September, we have made a very small change to our Academy Day. **The start time of our Academy Day will now be 8:30am.** Students who are not on site by 8:30am will be marked as late and issued with a **same day 1 hour detention.** This sanction will also apply for those students who are late to lesson during the school day.

Reminder of end of term and start of term plans

Term ends year on Friday 28th July. All students should attend the Academy as normal, and they will be dismissed from 12:10pm onwards. If your child is eligible for Free School Meals, and you would like them to have a packed lunch to take home, please let us know by Wednesday 26th July. Please email Mr Hickman at r.hickman@thefarnboroughacademy.com and include your child's name to confirm your Free School Meal.

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

Friday 1st September

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

Monday 4th September

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

Tuesday 5th 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.

Finally, thank you for your support over the past year and on behalf of all of our staff, I would like to wish you all a pleasant and enjoyable summer.

Yours sincerely,

Mr A Trowbridge
Assistant Principal