

Ref:ARY/DER/Sept17

6 September 2017

Dear Parents and Carers

Re: Welcome back!

I hope you have all enjoyed the summer break and managed to spend some time with your families. This summer saw another year of good results with improvements in almost all GCSE subjects compared to 2016. You will remember that in 2016 our pupils achieved the academy's best ever maths and English GCSE results, with 61% achieving passes at A*-C in both subjects.

This year we have focused on improvements across all subjects and built on those successes with improved results across almost all GCSE subjects. In 2015 only 5% of pupils achieved A*-C in GCSE Art whereas this year the pass rate was 100%. In Geography it was 38% compared to 59% this year and in PE results rose from 26% to 89%. French results rose from 53% last year to 71% and Hospitality results went from 39% to 73%, whilst Resistant Materials results rose from 25% to 86%. BTEC Construction and Health and Social Care results remained outstanding.

Separate sciences were introduced in 2016, and the BTEC in Science was also discontinued nationally, meaning all pupils had to study at least two sciences. This year the number of pupils achieving two good passes in science has risen by 10%, and the pass rate in core science improved by 18%. In GCSE Physics, results rose from 74% to 92% A*-C.

The new GCSEs were introduced this summer in English Language, Literature and Mathematics. Our results held steady in Maths with 68% achieving a grade 4. In Language there was a dip due to the fact that there is no longer any coursework in the new GCSE, which makes it harder for pupils than it was last year to achieve a grade 4, considered to be the equivalent of an old grade C. However, we were delighted to see results in English literature rise from 47% to 63% grade 4 and above this year – another academy record. This means that our best English results are 49% grade 5 (old grade B) and above and 64% grade 4 and above.

There is so much to celebrate. This has been partly achieved by adapting the curriculum to give pupils more taught lessons per subject and by creating more time to support pupils with maths and English. We also ran a full after school intervention programme for Year 11 pupils to attend along with holiday sessions. Of course it goes without saying that those who tried hardest achieved the best results and we are grateful to parents for their support and to pupils for their commitment and super attitudes. I consider myself very privileged to have had such a fantastic Year 11 in my first year at De Warenne and have been delighted to welcome so many back into our Sixth Form today.

In Year 10 all students achieved at least one GCSE or Level 2 vocational qualification this summer, with over half the year group also picking up a qualification in media studies or statistics. This was an important time for them as they got their first taste of results day and now know what is required of them if they wish to match or exceed

these results next summer. A great attitude to learning makes all the difference and we need your support to hit the ground running and ensure we do even better next year, so please have high expectations of your children and encourage them to do their best.

Thank you to all parents who have supported our uniform policy and ensured pupils are dressed appropriately for school. They looked great today. This is all part of the bigger picture in raising standards and improving the climate in the academy. If you are still struggling to source correct uniform items please get in touch with your child's Learning Manager and we will support you as best we can.

As a parent I know the start of a new year can be a worrying time. If you have any concerns please do not hesitate to contact your child's Learning Manager in the first instance.

Thank you in advance for the support you will give as we continue to improve De Warenne Academy and I look forward to seeing you at our Parent Consultation Evenings.

Yours sincerely



Mrs A Rooney
Associate Principal