

29th September 2020

Dear Parents & Carers

Newsletter

I am writing to give you an update on everything which is going on in the academy at the moment. It is incredibly busy as we try to keep everyone safe and adapt to new ways of working but there are plenty of good news stories to report!

121 Tutors

We have employed some 121 tutors of maths and English – Mrs Nielszen, Mr Harrison and Mr Lane. During the school day they work with small groups of pupils to try and stop them from falling behind. After school and at weekends they are tutoring our Year 11 pupils via Microsoft Teams. We will rotate the groups throughout the year to give as many pupils as possible the opportunity for a little extra support.

Year 7

We will be changing the Year 7 groups in response to the recent maths and English tests pupils have completed. It was exciting to hear that two of our pupils are in the top 2% nationally for their maths result and eleven were in the top 10% for English!

We will shortly be launching our Year 7 “Experiences” programme, starting with the opportunity to have six singing or drumming lessons taught in small groups by Mrs Lawson, our music teacher. There will be other “Experiences” later in the year, Covid-19 restrictions permitting, and we hope to include a visit to the theatre and a picnic at Yorkshire Sculpture Park. All “Experiences” are free of charge and are intended to give pupils new learning experiences beyond the classroom.

Year 8

Mr Hines will soon be launching the Year 8 Pledges programme. This is a series of eight challenges which pupils complete during Year 8 to earn blazer badges and a ticket to an end of year graduation party.

Year 9 & 10

Mrs Nadin, Year 10 Learning Manager, is in the process of setting up a new Academy council to help with staff interviews, charity fundraising and ensuring pupils’ ideas such as suggestions for rewards events are discussed with the senior leadership team.

Miss Carr is currently setting up our Eco-Council so we can continue our work towards achieving the Eco-School award and become a Plastic-Free School. Both opportunities will be open to all year groups but I would particularly like our older pupils to get involved and be positive role models.

Year 11

Year 11 are busy getting ready for their first trial exams which begin next week. Pie Night is on Thursday 1st October when they will be able to collect all the revision resources they need, free of charge, to see them through to their final GCSE exams. We have a first reward event planned for them on 23rd October and they are earning a "Delta dollar" to gain entry. We have been so impressed with them, staying in school until 3.30pm to catch up on lost time and I am grateful to our fantastic teaching staff for making this possible.

Anti-social behaviour

COVID-19 brings its own challenges and I am receiving a lot of emails about social distancing and the conduct of our pupils in the local community including outside the academy gates. Please fulfil your responsibilities as parents and carers and remind your children to go straight home, not to congregate in the shops or parks unless observing social distancing, and not to hang around at primary school gates in groups when collecting siblings.

Please also note that the duty staff at the school gate are exactly that. We are there to greet our pupils, offer them a bagel for breakfast and ask how they are doing. We like to be there to ensure they cross the road safely.

We are not there to be shouted at by local residents or criticised for not policing the local streets and parks. You have parental responsibility for your children before and after school. In addition, if you want to voice a concern or discuss your child with a member of staff please do so in the correct manner by calling reception or using School Gateway. It is not appropriate to accost staff at the gate when they are in the middle of duty or to write complaints on social media which have not been raised directly with the school. Should you witness an incident which causes you concern in the community please dial 999 and report it immediately.

I am very proud of De Warenne Academy and everything my pupils have achieved. My staff are highly committed and have all played their part in our success story to date. Everything we do is for your children, to improve their future. I am asking for your support at this challenging time.

Thank you in advance

Mrs A Rooney, Principal