



July 2010

Dear Parent / Carers

This academic year has seen Finham move from strength to strength in a huge number of areas, many of which Mr Bailie will include in his letter to parents at the end of the term. With progress there is often change, and this letter is to inform you of the most important information for the end of this school year and the start of next.

1. Last Day of Term Arrangements

On 23 July, students will have normal lessons periods 1 & 2. There will then be an extended break time (for students to have food and free school meals) followed by mentor time and assemblies. **Students will be dismissed from school at 1.30pm.**

2. Times of the School Day

The start of the school day (8:50am) and end of the school day (3:00pm) will remain the same. The times of lessons will change from 50 minutes to 1 hour, meaning there will be 5 rather than 6 lessons a day. This will allow students to develop their learning further each lesson and hence maximize their progress. The structure of the school day will largely stay the same:

8:50 - 9:05 Mentor Period
9:05 - 10:05 Period 1
10:05 - 11:05 Period 2
11:05 - 11:25 Break for the whole school
11:25 - 12:25 Period 3

either 12:25 - 1:25 Period 4 **or** 12:25 - 1:00 Lunch
1:25 - 2:00 Lunch 1:00 - 2:00 Period 4
2:00 - 3:00 Period 5

In order to cover the whole curriculum we are moving to a two week timetable. In order to embed this system we are moving the timetable to the new structure from *Monday, 12 July 2010*.

3. Improvements to BfL (Behaviour for Learning)

This year parents, staff and students have been consulted on how to improve the BfL system. The following is a summary of the main points (further details will soon be available on the school website):

Rewards & Awards

To replace college credits, 'Star Stickers' have been introduced. To receive Star Stickers students have to show Learning Behaviour which is above the normal and general expectation. They will be given for:

- ✓ an **impressive** effort
- ✓ **impressive** progress relative to their ability
- ✓ an **impressive** contribution which enhances the learning for the group
- ✓ a **significant contribution** to a school event
- ✓ a **significant degree of care and support** for others in the school
- ✓ **Volunteers for community service**, e.g. picking up litter etc.

When students achieve a certain number of stickers letters will be sent home and certificates awarded at end of term assemblies.

P1/3

The 'Choices System' (Formerly known as BfL Consequences)

This system is in place to allow all students the right to learn and all teachers the right to teach:

- Choice 1: Warning from teacher that behaviour is not acceptable, reminded of expected behaviour
- Choice 2: 2nd warning and reminded of expected behaviour; teachers will usually pre-empt further misbehaviour by e.g. moving a student
- Choice 3: Teacher sanction- e.g. detention
- Choice 4: Sent to another teacher— further consequences will apply
- Choice 5: Removal to Withdrawal Room – further consequences will apply

Most students at Finham Park will go through the whole of their school career without any of the above.

4. Access to live information about your child via SIMS.Net

During the summer holidays you will receive a letter informing you of your log in for a new way to access your child's information electronically, called 'Insight'. Further details will follow in the letter with more early next academic year.

5. Student Uniform September 2010

The following list is intended to clarify and strengthen uniform policy for years 7-11:

- Black, sensible school shoes, with black sole (no coloured stitching or logos)- trainers or boots are not suitable for school
- Black or grey socks- coloured socks are not suitable
- GIRLS- Plain black or flesh coloured tights - patterned tights are not suitable for school
- Plain black trousers suitable for school– fashion trousers- jean style, 'skinny' or stretch materials are not suitable for school OR
- GIRLS- Plain black skirt knee length- fashion skirts, tight, short, or very long skirts are not suitable
- Plain white polo shirt with school logo
- Black sweatshirt/ jumper with school logo
- Jewellery:- only one pair of stud earrings can be worn in ears and one small ring are allowed- large items of jewellery or other piercings are not suitable for school
- Years 10 & 11 girls- discreet makeup can be worn (nail varnish is not allowed)
- Suitable school coat- tracksuit tops, hooded tops (except with school logo), leather or denim jackets are not suitable for school
- Hats, suitable for school, can be worn outdoors in inclement weather- baseball and large hats are not suitable for school
- GIRLS-Head scarves should be black or dark blue
- GIRLS-Only small hair clips/ hair bands are allowed
- All students need a suitable school bag with all necessary equipment to ensure they are ready to learn.

If students/ parents are in doubt about what is suitable school wear they should consult the school website at www.finhampark.co.uk or speak to your child's mentor or college leader.

6. Start dates for the new academic year

Wednesday, 1 September

Staff Training

Thursday, 2 September

- 8:50 - 9:05am
- 10:05 - 11:05am

Year 7 meet in the sports hall; **Years 10 & 13** go to mentor rooms
Years 8, 9 & 11 should go to mentor rooms for 10:05am

Friday, 3 September

- Normal lessons all day for **Years 7-11 & 13**

Monday, 6 September

- **Year 12** start Report to mentors at 8:50am

7. Important dates for the first half term:

- 15 September Year 7 & 10 photos
- 16 September Year 12 Information Evening
- 23 September Open Evening
- 8 October Teacher Training day
- 25 October Half term holiday begins

(The new calendar will soon be available on the school website)

We would both like to thank parents/ carers for your continued support, and hope you have a good summer.

Yours sincerely



MR R PLESTER
Deputy Headteacher

MRS V MAGINNNIS
Deputy Headteacher