



"A learning community in pursuit of excellence"

17th September 2018

Dear Parents/Carers,

Whilst the summer break seems like a distant memory, it is wonderful to welcome back our students for another year at LSA. It is also a good time to share some information about the school and pass on information that may be useful.

I must start by thanking parents for their support with the excellent standard of uniform and shoes. The students are a credit to the school and we recognise that this is down to your work as parents. We know that uniform does not increase grades directly, but it is about being part of our community and showing pride in LSA. All students are in proper shoes and every student is wearing their tie properly with shirts tucked in. Already, visitors are complementing our students for their manner and appearance.

As you will see below, our summer results were excellent and the school has an incredible atmosphere, with excellent relationships everywhere. The commitment to our values of **aspiration, endeavour, integrity and respect** is making a real difference. It is no coincidence that we have such a long waiting list of parents, in all years, wanting to be part of LSA. Thank you again for your support.

Best wishes

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ray Baker'.

Ray Baker

Results

This summer saw an excellent set of results from both the year 13 and year 11 students. Schools are about so much more than results, but there is no escaping that qualifications allow students more choice and the opportunity to progress, so are therefore very important. Year 13 returned excellent A-Level grades, with more A grades than ever before. Many of the students secured their first choice university offers and the results were a fitting end to our sixth form provision.

GCSE results were excellent in many ways. 2017 set the bar high and our 2018 cohort raised it further. Whilst all results are provisional, we know that LSA will again be amongst the highest performing schools in Lancashire. With attainment at its highest ever level, we had three students attain an entire set of grade 9's. With only 700 students nationally achieving this, having three at one school is rare. The effort and hard work of the students really did make a difference and we are proud of all the results.

The government's measure of progress 8 (P8) is not published yet, but again, we know that our score will show that students make more progress in their time at LSA than many other schools. We are under no doubt that it is the close relationship between the students, their families and our talented staff that make for such success.

Assessment Update: Changes and Information

Following a period of consultation with parents, students and staff we are making changes to our reports and consultation evening with a view to being more effective in communicating with parents and thus more effective in recognising the achievements and supporting the students.

In short, the three data reports which now have an accompanying commentary remains in place, however we have decided to **replace the full written subject comments with a form tutor comment**. This comment will accompany either the Easter or summer data report and will celebrate the wider contribution students make to school as well as summarising their academic performance.

We have also added an additional consultation evening for each year group.

For Y7 to Y10 the extra '**Form Tutor Consultation Evening**' will take place in the autumn term and will be a familiar format to the original 'Y7 Meet the form tutor' evening many parents will remember. Parents will have a single appointment of up to ten minutes to see their form tutor who will be able to advise parents on the attitude, behaviour for learning and study skills thoughts provided by all subject teachers. Senior teachers and College Leaders will be on hand to support parents with additional concerns. Year groups will be paired up for these evening with **Y7/ Y8 on 11th October** and **Y9/ Y10 on 11th December** at the usual time of **4pm to 7pm**.

Y11 will be having an extra subject based consultation evening. This will be before the January mock exams on the 6th December and another before the final GCSE exams on the 21st March.

The **Subject Consultation Evenings** for all years will have a slightly different format in order to maximise effectiveness, more information will follow prior to each evening, but will remain subject focussed.

As a school, we maintain an excellent partnership with parents and welcome student enquiries throughout the year. This has been a major factor in the strong exam performance and is something we are all keen to build on.

Consistency and School Rules

A key area of our school is to try and improve both consistency and communication. As such, we have invested again in planners for all students, which can be used as a means of recording information, logging homework or passing on messages.

As such, please can we ask that you take some time to read the first few pages of the planner, which give details about our values, our expectations and our policies. The clearer we are about these, the better it is for students and staff.

Typical of our students!

This week, we received a text from a parent explaining that their year 7 child was lost and that a group of year 9 or 10 students were brilliant in helping her to keep calm find her way to lesson and enjoy the rest of the day. We didn't have the names to share the parental thanks, but it was something that we see every day. If it was your child, please thank them for us!