



Dear Parent/Carer,

As we pass another significant milestone, the midpoint of the academic year, it is critical we keep you informed about our progress so far and what we expect to happen next. This first 6 months has been about firmly establishing a new vision, culture and ethos for everyone concerned with our new Academy. We have a new direction which must be maintained if we are to succeed, and so far everything is going to plan.

Our Year 11 students are now only 9 weeks from their final BTEC and GCSE examinations,. Most are working extremely hard to acquire the appropriate grades, namely A\*-C grades, essentially in English and Maths plus 3 others. Therefore, 5 subjects at A\*-C grades including English and Maths is still the local and national benchmark for successful entry to 6<sup>th</sup> Form, College, Training or high level employment. We know at least 57% of this year group, or 128 students, have the ability to achieve this level. Please ensure your son/daughter prepares adequately and revises thoroughly for these crucial exams which start on 11<sup>th</sup> May. They will only have this ONE opportunity in their lives to do this; please, please **DO NOT LET THEM MISS THIS OPPORTUNITY.**

The very able Year 10 year group continue to take life far too easy indeed! With half of the year already behind us they need to become more URGENT and drive forwards to guarantee success. Year 9's have their very important Options Evening on 12<sup>th</sup> March whilst the Year 8's have their Options Evening on 19<sup>th</sup> March. Both of these Year Groups must make crucial decisions about their futures and which options to choose, so it is imperative that you come along to support them and offer advice to them on their relevant evenings. Our Year 7's continue to make very good progress after settling in well to secondary school life; primary school now seems a long way behind them. As a completely new venture we intend hosting a Key Stage 3 (Year 7 and 8) Achievement Show on 25<sup>th</sup> March from 3.30pm until 4.45pm organised and run by the students themselves and featuring all their successes achieved so far. Please come along and make this a success for them; it is their night to feel proud.

In our desire to make Aspire Academy one of the best 11-16 High Schools in Blackpool and the surrounding area we are determined that our "Back to Basics" mantra delivers the appropriate outcomes. Therefore, we must continue to insist that all of our students are in the right place at the right time, in the right uniform with the right equipment and the right attitude and manners focused on being successful. What is extremely pleasing is the sheer number of students who have 'bought into' our BIG MESSAGES and wish to join us on our journey to success. Unfortunately, the small number who have not will continue to be sanctioned appropriately and face an increasingly harsher range of punishments, ultimately leading internal and external exclusion. As you should know by now ... we mean **BUSINESS** and intend to keep to our **PROMISES** and deliver **SUCCESSFUL OUTCOMES.**

As part of our commitment in providing better facilities for all of our students we have reorganised our toilet provision. From Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> February Years 7, 10 and 11 will have their own separate toilet areas whilst Years 8 and 9 will share another area. Each toilet area will be overseen by a team of experienced staff who will ensure they are open at appropriate times of the day and kept clean and tidy. It is very important to remember that all students have a right to use the toilets when necessary but as young adults they should be able to coordinate and control their visits to before school, break, lunch and after school. It is not appropriate to keep interrupting lessons to visit the toilet or be late back to lessons which is frequently occurring from a persistent number of female students. Moreover, there has been considerable damage to the girls' toilets on several occasions; this must stop. In emergencies students can have the appropriate section of the Student Planners signed by the class teacher so they can leave class to use the toilets. If students have a toilet pass then they may use the toilets at Student Services. Students need to be sensible and sensitive to others and not use the toilets as communal leisure parks for a few more senior females!

We are very confident that with your support our new Academy will flourish and prosper, to become a very good school indeed. We look forward to meeting you at any of our upcoming events during the next half of the school year .... and into the future.

Mr C B Simkins, OBE  
Principal

# Punctuality means ...



School begins at 8:40 - be on time!

"lost minutes = lost learning!"



Every school day counts BUT every minute is equally important!

## Notice Board

**Medical**  
If your child needs to go for a medical appointment in school time please try to make the appointment after 3pm.

**Rewards**  
Cinema tickets and subway vouchers are being given out to reward great attendance - be in to win!

**Holidays**  
Holidays are not permitted in term time and will not be authorised.

**Absence**  
If your child is absent with sickness, a phone call on the first day of absence must be made to the school. You may need to provide medical evidence so the absence can be authorised

