



Dear Parent/Carer

A very warm welcome to you all from FCAT, the Academy sponsors, our new Academy Council, all of the staff and myself to the new Blackpool Aspire Academy. This is the Academy's first ever newsletter and as such forms a significant document. We opened to students officially on Wednesday 3rd September, having opened to staff on Monday and Tuesday so we could prepare thoroughly for the first day. The Academy has a completely new look and feel with new signage, a thoroughly refurbished and welcoming reception, freshly painted corridors and teaching rooms and a refreshing new Student Services area for instant assistance and information. Mrs Shuttleworth-Brown our new Deputy Principal brings new vision, experience and expertise which complement the skills and qualities of the existing very experienced Deputy Principals of Mr Topping and Mrs Hanlon-Catlow. The merger of the two predecessor schools has provided our new Academy with a strong extended senior leadership team, a vibrant middle leadership team and raft of able and talented teachers. One of my main tasks as Principal is to ensure this large team of leaders and teachers grows and flourishes into an even better professional team offering your sons/daughters the best educational experience within the Wyre and Fylde area.

I continue to be extremely excited about being Aspire Academy's first Principal as I start to realise how many excellent students attend the Academy. Most are very sensible, intelligent, and articulate. Unfortunately in the past far too many students underachieved in a range of subjects but in particular in the key core subjects of English, Maths and Science. Now the Academy is fully operational, on one site with a stable staffing body and quality resources, there should be no excuse for poor results in the future. All students must now buy into the Academy's new strap line of 'Success, nothing less', and strive to live up to it.

It is very reassuring to report that the final merger of students from the two predecessor schools, went very smoothly at the end of last term. Year 11 now form the largest year group of 240 students and have settled extremely well, forming new friendship groups and working very hard to achieve excellent results this summer. A newly selected Head Boy and Head Girl will lead an extremely strong team of Senior Prefects and other Prefects who will help to run the new Academy. All Year 11's look very impressive in their new uniforms, with their distinctive tie's, which they are all wearing with great pride. This is a very important year for them as they plan their future careers under the guidance of Mr Blackwell (Progress Lead Key Stage 4) and the Year 11 Progress Tutors. The crucial **Year 11 Progress Evening** is on 15th October from 3.30pm to 7.00pm. It is vital that you support your son/daughter at this event since it gives you an early indication of their progress and the work which needs to be undertaken to secure success next August.

The majority of the other year groups have settled in well to the rigour and routines of the new Academy and have responded positively to my BIG MESSAGES about being in the right place at the right time, with the right uniform and attitude and showing respect. Unfortunately some have been rude, challenging and defiant. These students have faced a series of escalating sanctions including detentions, isolation in the IMPACT area, short term placement in alternative schools and ultimately exclusion. Fortunately, this is only a small portion of students who will gradually feel isolated from the rest of the student population and wish to do well at school and in life. The new Year 7's have rapidly settled into 'big school', so well done to all of these new students too. There is a **Year 7 Progress Evening** for all parents and carers on the 9th October from 3.30pm to 6.00pm and we look forward to seeing you here.

Please remember that our **OPEN EVENING** is on Tuesday 30th September from 5.30pm to 8.30pm. Please come and join us. In order to prepare adequately for this very important evening the Academy will close at 1.20pm.

Also please note that the Academy will close for the Autumn half term at 3.00pm on Friday 24th October and not reopen again until 8.35am on Wednesday 5th November.

Thank you for your continuing support

Mr CB Simkins, OBE. Academy Principal

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