



July 2016

Dear Parent / Carers

This academic year has been momentous for us all at Finham Park 2. Not only has our new school successfully opened, but the feedback from parents, students and visitors has been extremely positive - and that's before we move to our newly refurbished building in September! Our regular newsletters, available on our website, have given a flavour of all of the fabulous things we have been doing during the year and the current term has been no different. 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 19 July, students will have a rewards assembly at St Martin's church (they should come straight to the church and bring their reading book), followed by teambuilding sessions periods 1 and 2 (PE kit is not required for this). After break Finham Park 2 students will have the opportunity for 'cinema time' (with popcorn and sweets available to purchase) to end the year on a high! **Students will be dismissed from school at 1.00pm.** Students are reminded to be in **full school uniform** on the last day of term

## 2. Start dates for the new academic year

*Monday, 5 September*                      Staff Training Day  
*Tuesday 6 September*                    Staff Training Day

*Wednesday, 7 September:*

- o 8:40am                                      **Year 7** arrive and go straight to The Refectory
- o 10:05am                                    **Year 8** arrive and go to mentor rooms

*Thursday, 8 September*

- o Normal lessons all day for **Years 7&8**

## 3. Important dates for the first half term:

- 14 September                            - y7 teambuilding with y8 Sports Leaders
- 16 September                            - whole school photo; year 7 photos
- 22 September                            - y7 study skills and meet the mentor evening
- 28 September                            - Open Evening- school closes to students at 1.25pm
- 12 October                                - y8 study skills evening
- 21 October                                - end of Autumn half term 1
- 31 October                                - start of Autumn half term 2

Further calendar dates will be available on the school website shortly.



#### 4. Exceptional Leave in Term Time reminder

From 1 September 2013, the Secretary of State for Education informed Headteachers not to authorise holidays during term time. Taking students out of school during term time for 'exceptional' reasons will be considered.

#### 5. Changes to classes and mentor groups for next year

Every new academic year gives us a great opportunity to review our current mentor groups and classes and make any necessary changes. There is a variety of reasons for students to move but any decision will always be taken in the best interest of your child's education.

Also as you may know, school funding continues to decrease in real terms and schools across the country are having to make difficult decisions about staff redundancies and class sizes. We are in a fortunate position that we are growing as a school and are delighted to have a full complement of high quality specialist staff for next academic year. However, our average class size will have to increase to a maximum of 30 in certain subjects (the maximum this year was 27).

#### 6. Uniform Reminder

Thank you for your support in ensuring our students continue to look exceptionally smart in school. We also continue to receive praise from the community on how smart Finham Park 2 students are on the way to and from school. As way of a reminder, please can you ensure your child wears:

- Black, sensible school **shoes**, with *black sole* (no coloured stitching or logos) – trainers, pumps or boots are not suitable for school, neither are heels.
- Black or grey **socks** (also white socks for girls) – coloured/ patterned socks are not suitable.
- Plain black, grey or flesh coloured **tights** - patterned tights are not suitable for school.
- Plain 'school grey' **trousers** suitable for school - fashion trousers - jean style, 'skinny' or stretch materials are not suitable for school.
- OR plain grey *knee-length* pleated **skirt** - fashion skirts, tight, short or very long skirts are not suitable.
- Plain white school **shirt**, buttoned at the neck– long or short sleeved.
- Navy and gold clip-on **tie** with college colour.
- Navy school **jumper/** tank-top with single gold stripe around neck.
- Navy **blazer** with Finham Park logo - must be worn to school every day; this may be removed in lessons without staff permission.
- Suitable outdoor **coat** - tracksuit tops, hooded tops, leather or denim jackets are not suitable for school.
- No **hats** can be worn on school site apart from navy blue Finham Park hat with logo.
- Only one pair of stud earrings can be worn in ears and one small ring is allowed - large items of **jewellery** or other piercings are not suitable for school.
- Years 10 & 11 girls - *discreet* **make-up**. No nail varnish allowed.
- **Headscarves** should be black or dark blue.
- Only small hairclips / hairbands are allowed. No coloured or extreme hairstyles, including tram lines or very short **hair**.



- All students need a suitable bag with all necessary **equipment** to ensure they are ready to learn (pen, pencil, eraser, ruler, sharpener, calculator, planner, reading book)

The school is happy to support students in wearing items, which relate to culture or religion. It will be appreciated that there cannot be endless arguments about dress, and *the school's decision on whether appearance is appropriate for school or not must be the final one*. Students whose appearance is not appropriate for school may be sent home and asked to change.

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

Finally, I'd like to remind you that *chewing gum* is not allowed on site.

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

Yours sincerely

**Russell Plester**  
Headteacher

**Jo Brake (Mrs)**  
Acting Deputy Headteacher