



October 2018

Dear Parent/Carer

It gives me great pleasure to welcome you to what I know will be another very exciting year at Finham Park 2. This letter is to inform you of some of the most important information for the first term. I hope you find it useful.

Progress

Congratulations to our new year 7s on their fantastic SATs results who on average achieved significantly above the national average in numeracy and literacy. We are looking forward to seeing how talented you are over the forthcoming weeks, months and years! Our new year 8s, 9s and 10s made extremely good progress last year. This was due to their hard work, positive attitude, excellent teaching and support from parents. Well done to all!

High expectations: homework, behavior, uniform and attendance

At Finham Park 2, we have the highest expectations in terms of academic standards; behaviour; uniform; attendance and punctuality.

I hope you will continue to give me your full support in ensuring that your child attends school punctually every day, and that they are fully equipped and prepared for their lessons. In particular, I would ask that students wear the Finham Park 2 uniform with pride at all times, both in school and on their journey to and from school.

One of the best ways to support your child's learning is to ensure they are in school every day and on time. School starts at 8:40am – students should be in their mentor rooms by this time. Our minimum attendance target is 96%. However, if your child is sick, let us know by contacting the school office on the first day of illness.

Homework really helps

We see homework as a vital part of the learning process. Homework allows students to reinforce their understanding of work they have covered in the classroom as well as enabling them to develop their independent skills, so vital for students to achieve both in school, at university and beyond.

Please support us by checking your child's homework planner and FROG webpage and encouraging them to do their very best.

Food and drink to help learning

We encourage our students to eat healthily as this can have a positive effect on learning: fruit and water are great at helping students with their learning. Students are allowed to drink water in lessons (except where it is unsafe) and they have opportunities throughout the day to fill up their water bottles. Students can purchase food from the Refectory before school (from 8:00am), at break time and lunchtime. The following food items are not allowed in school: chewing gum, energy drinks, large amount of sweets.

Times of the day

The school opens at 8:00am- students should not be on site before this time. On Mondays and Fridays school finishes at 3:00pm but students can have access to the library. Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays all students will stay until 4:00pm and take part in a wide variety of OOSHL activities including homework club, sports, art, music, food and much more!

Site safety

Travelling to school:

However your child chooses to travel to school please ensure it is safe and is respectful to our neighbours.

Bicycle – Bicycle shelters are available at the front and back of the school. We strongly advise that students wear a helmet. During the winter months lights and high visibility clothing should be worn.

Walking – Torrington Avenue can be very busy. Please remind your child to cross at the crossings available and be aware of the dangers of traffic.

Car – Parents are able to drop their child off on site as there is a drop off area in the car park. However, this can be very busy at peak times. If you do choose this option, please be careful when driving onto the site as students may be crossing and please be respectful of other drivers. Parents should not use the Job Centre car park as this is solely for their use. Also, can parents please not park on the pavement near school along Torrington Avenue as it can slow down traffic and be dangerous for the children.

Contacting the school

Staff can be contacted by email – a list of email addresses are available on our website (we cannot guarantee answering messages through Facebook and Twitter). We are also happy to welcome parents/carers into the school. If you need to meet with a particular member of staff in person it is always best to make an appointment by calling the school office on 02477 710720. If you do come onto the school site, please go to the main reception which is located at the front of the building.

If you are not sure who to see usually your first point of call will be your child's mentor.

New staff

There are some exciting staff additions to announce:

Our new staff: Mr Bolatti – EG College Leader, Mrs Hunter – SG College Leader, Ms Stones – WG College Leader, Miss Johnson – Assistant SENCO, Miss Robinson – TA Apprentice, Mr Hanly – Learning Supervisor, Mr Jandu – RE Teacher, Ms Klym – Business Studies Teacher, Ms Ward – Art Teacher, Ms Woodley – Art Technician, Mr Green – PE Teacher, Ms Kaminska-Sommer – Science Technician, Ms Emeney – English Teacher, Ms Gallagher – Maths Teacher, Mr Jay – Maths Teacher, Mr Wiggins – Languages Teacher.

Dates for your diary

Please keep the attached list in a safe place for future reference – it gives details of term/holiday dates and key dates throughout the school year. May I please remind you not to book holidays during term time as they will not be authorized and are extremely disruptive to your child's education.

Are you contact details up to date?

It is extremely important that the school is able to get in touch with parents/carers easily on a day-to-day basis. If your details have changed, please let the office know.

I look forward to working with you all to ensure another successful year for our whole school community.

Yours sincerely



Russell Plester
Headteacher

2018 Important Calendar Dates

19 October	Last day of half term (school finishes at normal time)
22 - 26 October	HALF TERM HOLIDAY
29 October	First day of half term
01 November	Year 7 & 8 Aiming for Success
16 November	Children in Need non-uniform day
22 November	Year 10 Parent's Evening
30 November	Disaggregated training day – school closed to students
21 December	Last day of term – early close at 1:25pm
	Christmas Jumper Day
22 Dec – 4 Jan	CHRISTMAS HOLIDAY

2019

7 January	MAT training day – school closed to students
8 January	MAT training day – school closed to students
9 January	First day of Spring Term
15 January	Year 8 Options Information Evening
24 January	Year 8 Parents' Evening
12 February	Year 9 Parents' Evening
15 February	Last day of half term (school finishes as normal)
18-24 February	HALF TERM HOLIDAY
25 February	First day of half term
27 March	Year 7 Parents' Evening
12 April	Last day of term (school finishes at normal time)
15 April – 26 April	EASTER HOLIDAY
29 April	First day of Summer Term
6 May	Bank Holiday – school closed
24 May	Last day of half term (school finishes as normal)
27 May – 31 May	HALF TERM HOLIDAY
3 June	First day of half term
27 June	New Year 7 Afternoon Tea
3 July	New Year 7 Transition Day & New Year 7 Parents Information Evening
16 July	Festival of Sport
19 July	Last day of term – early close at 1:25pm

More details and updates will be shared throughout the year via our website – www.finhampark2.co.uk