

# Folkestone Academy – Secondary Phase

## Parent/Carer Briefing June/July 2018

### Frequently Asked Questions

#### Context:

We are introducing a series of changes at Folkestone Academy for the new Academic year in September 2018 and we wanted to brief you about them in advance.

Our whole, all through, Academy vision is to provide a cradle to career education. To ensure that our pastoral care supports academic success - to not just look after your children for the now, but set them up for the future - at university, in apprenticeships, in their wider careers and at home.

The GCSES that students take now rely on final examinations – course work in GCSEs has virtually disappeared. With this in mind we want to make sure that your sons and daughters are prepared for this both academically and emotionally.

Many of these changes have been in response to feedback from parents, carers, students and staff.

If you would like any more detail or to set up a 1:1 meeting with Mr Carroll or the Senior Leadership team please contact [admin@folkestoneacademy.com](mailto:admin@folkestoneacademy.com).

#### Uniform

- Academy tie – from September all students will wear the same tie. Each student will be given their first new tie.
- Academy blazer – this will stay the same colour with a change to the logo on the pocket. Please note students can still wear the current blazer until they have grown out of it.
- Academy trousers – these will be available for all students and need to be purchased from our uniform supplier.
- Academy shirt – You can now buy plain white collared shirts from any clothing retailers/supermarket. The collar needs to be suitable for wearing a tie ie no blouses or open necked shirts.
- Academy skirts – lengths of skirts should be just above the knee – no higher.
- Academy Sale – There is a sale of old uniform stock running in the Academy Shop – grab a bargain while you can.
- From July parents will need to buy uniform online. We will have samples for sizing purposes in the Business Centre.

## The Academy Day

Activity	Time
School Opens	8:15
Lessons begin	09:00
Lessons end	15:30
After School Activities (not Wednesdays)	Until 4:30 or 5pm

- 8.15am – school will be open offering students a free breakfast and some morning activities (sports / clubs)
- 9.00am – lessons will start promptly at this time.
- 3.30am – there will be a consistent finish to lessons every weekday including Wednesdays.
- 20 minute for break time and 40 minutes for lunch time.
- We will move to 5 x 1 hour lessons to support increased learning and help with practical lessons and sports. It will also help our students develop the concentration they need for exams.
- We will move to a two week timetable this will ensure we offer a full and varied curriculum.
- 4 days of after school activities until 4.30pm / 5pm – students will be able to take part in a range of clubs/activities (not Wednesdays as we will do Staff Training and key meetings on that afternoon).

## Academy Passport

- Will provide students with important information such as their timetable, important dates and contacts.
- Will record rewards and acknowledge when students have done well.
- These will be finalised over the Summer and issued to students in September.

## Homework

- GCSEs are becoming more exam based – students need to learn how to study and revise for these.
- Focus will be on factual learning and it will support classwork.
- There will be a supervised homework club after school four days a week (not Wednesdays)

## Behaviour

- From September we will have a very clear and simple Behaviour Policy, using plain English.
- Focus will be on behaviours for learning and for life.
- We take the prevention of bullying very seriously and have introduced a Well-being Mentor who offers a quiet space for students in break and lunches 2 days a week. They also make sure all incidents are logged and catalogued so not only can we pick up quickly when things are going wrong but also we can spot trends and intervene as needed.

## Year Groups

- We are moving from the House system to Year groups this is to reflect the fact that most events occur in Year groups: tutor time, exams, lessons, options.
- Structure will include:
  - Head of Key Stage
  - Head of Year & Associate Head of Year
  - Tutor
  - Progress Leader & Learning Mentor
- Staff will be able to focus on the issues and needs most relevant to their Year group.
- For competition and charity events students will be allocated one of 4 'communities' to belong to.

## Head of Year Groups

- Year 7 – Miss McLaughlin
- Year 8 – Mr Speed
- Year 9 – Mr Platts
- Year 10 – Mr Cahill
- Year 11 – Miss Horsford

## Parent Evenings & Reporting

- 2 parent evenings per year for each student.
- Clearer reporting to be introduced in September.
- Introduction of a new SIMS parent app which will, in time, give parents/carers online access to assessment, attendance, reward and behaviour data. To give you an idea of what it can do please take a look <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=KsCt0YLeabs>

## Communications

- Regular bulletins sent to parents – will include key dates and activities taking place.
- Parent forums & coffee mornings – will include information sessions on specific topics such as assessment, e-safety and opportunities for further feedback and discussion.
- Parent Teacher & Friends Association (PTFA) – we would like to set up one for our community. Please contact [admin@folkestoneacademy.com](mailto:admin@folkestoneacademy.com) if you are interested.