

Parents' Mailing



Acklam Grange School

May 2016

Dear Students and Parents/Carers,

Dear Parent/Guardians

What an amazing half-term it has been – outstanding GCSE results, a successful September Spectacular, a busy and vibrant Open Evening, 2 parents' evenings (Year 11 and 'Get Set Go' for Year 7) as well as countless enrichment activities.

Our students have visited universities, explored and discovered religious, cultural and art venues, offered a Dance evening for parents, attended several Middlesbrough Football Club home matches and competed on a local, regional and national level. We have hosted 2 Celebration Evenings – Years 7 to 10 on Thursday 13 October and Year 11 on Thursday 20 October – both praising and recognising academic, pastoral and sporting achievements.

I can truly say that I am very proud to be part of Acklam Granger family and I am privileged to work with so many talented and inspirational to work with so many talented and inspirational young people.

Outstanding Results 2016

Top Overall in Middlesbrough

2nd in the North East

Top 1.4% of schools in England

With the publication of School League Tables and successful re-marks, Acklam Grange School and our 2016 Year 11 students top the performance tables in all measures.

For Progress 8, a new measure, our score of 0.65 secures our place in the top 1.4% of schools nationally and is the highest in Middlesbrough.

Amongst schools in the North East, we are:

=7th for our % A*-C English/Maths at 73% (with remarks) and

=2nd for our Progress 8 at 0.65.

These outstanding results and rankings are down to the hard work and dedication of our 2016 Year 11 students and high quality teaching and commitment from staff.

Well done to all!

Ms A Crawshaw

In this newsletter you will read and learn more about our exciting initiatives and events including -

- School Success
- Attendance
- News Stories
- Useful dates

“The school's work to promote pupils' personal development and welfare is outstanding.”

PRIDE Rewards, Celebrations and Student Voice

It has been amazing to see all our students rising to the challenges which have been set by our year leaders this half term. We have seen guest speakers, former students and our senior leaders setting challenges for our students to strive for. One of these challenges included our student voice initiative. Over 50 of our students prepared and spoke in assembly on the importance and power of student voice. Every student who spoke automatically becomes part of their year council. Students were then invited to vote for the speeches that inspired them the most. Each boy and girl who received the most votes then became their representatives in our School Council alongside our Year 11 Senior Prefects. Our first job for our newly appointed council will be develop and AGS Pledge. We will write to you with these developments just before Christmas.

With the launch of our new rewards system, we have seen huge numbers of students achieving enough points to earn their PRIDE badges! To earn their badge, students need to achieve reward points across all elements of PRIDE. Within each category there a number of ways to achieve points including achieving attendance of at least 96% and punctuality of 100%. Students can also earn points for AGS Enhance, contribution, effective teamwork, community projects and good manners. These are our elements of PRIDE:

P- Perseverance
R – Respect
I – Initiative
D – Direction
E – Expression

The total amount of points that our year groups have achieved are;

Year 7 - 22870
Year 8 - 22722
Year 9 - 25531
Year 8 - 16540
Year 7 - 10682

Total points across all year groups was a whopping 98345!



This is a truly impressive figure. Our PRIDE rewards system encourages all students to become prepared for life in modern Britain. At Acklam Grange we believe that every child can shine in and out of the classroom environment and it is important for our students to achieve academically as well as shine within our many enrichment activities, which we offer at our school.

The hard work of our students has culminated in 232 of our students earning enough points to achieve this prestigious award. All students have been presented with their badges in our PRIDE assemblies this week. In addition to our badges, all students who have earned Perseverance points were all entered into a draw. Twelve names were randomly selected and have received an additional certificate and voucher for their hard work and determination. Rewards were also given for 100% attendance and punctuality, as well as a range of special awards which were selected by the year teams.

We have also celebrated outstanding success in our celebration evenings where students who have been awarded for excellence are joined by their parent/carers to share in their success.

It really has been a busy pastoral half term and we would like to thank you, our parent/carers for your support this half term. It really is the combination of our student's high aspirations and brilliant attitude, our staff's expectations and relentless dedication, and your care and support that makes our family, Acklam Grange School the success that it is.

Be here, be on time, be the best.

#AGSPride!



#AGSPride

Year 11 Parents Express Their Views

119 surveys were completed on our Year 11 Parents' Evening; parents were asked for their views on revision and the support that they and their child have received with this and we are delighted with the results! Over 71% of parents who completed our questionnaire had attended our "On Your Marks" revision support evening for parents and students at the end of Year 10. 95.8% of our Year 11 parents feel well informed about their child's progress; 95% believe that their child now knows how to revise effectively and 92.4% of parents surveyed feel confident in supporting their child with revision at home. We are very proud of our AGS Success programme and the impact it is having on the effectiveness and quality of our students' revision. Watch out for more events to support you with this during the year! Thank you to our Year 11 parents for completing the survey and also offering more suggestions for how we can further support you as parents.

Results

"Notes and books for parents so they can support at home." "More homework." "Homework books for parents." We will launch Eschools early next year which will allow you as parents to monitor homework and access key resources to support you and your child.

"Staff email addresses for 1 to 1 support." Email addresses for staff can be found on our website.

"A refresher would be helpful." Our "Final Countdown" revision workshop event for Year 11 parents and students will take place next term.

"Specific revision pointers for every subject." We are in the process of updating our revision handbook for the new exam specifications. You will shortly be receiving revision checklists for every subject your child studies.

AGS welcomes new Y7 students

Welcome to our amazing new Year 7 students, who look fantastic and approached their first day in secondary school with confidence and outstanding behaviour – well done! Some experienced flutters of nerves, but our universal and personalised Transition programme has ensured a successful first day.



At Acklam Grange, we pride ourselves on supporting our new students with a well-respected Transition programme including:

- 4 days of Induction at Acklam Grange School in July of Year 6
- Regular contact with partner Primary Schools in Years 4, 5 and 6
- Shared team work between primary and secondary staff to ensure a quality curriculum
- Personalised visits for students
- A dedicated Transition and Induction Team ready to guide, support and assist both student and parent.
- Today's "Year 7 Only Day" so that our focus is 100% on our new Year 7 students

We wish all our Year 7s a happy and rewarding 5 years at our school.

BBC proms visit

On 22 July, 13 of our students travelled to London to take part in the BBC Proms Season at the Royal Albert Hall. This was a fantastic experience for our students, as only 400 children from all over the country took part. If you haven't managed to see the Prom, it will be shown on the CBBC Channel on Sunday 11 September at 7:55pm.



The third September Spectacular is an overwhelming success

Our third annual September Spectacular event was an overwhelming success with crowds of families from our school and local community enjoying a fun-packed day together.



Community stallholders, games and inflatables, zorb football, archery, live music and fantastic weather all added to a superb atmosphere enjoyed by young and old alike.

Headteacher Ms Andrea Crawshaw said:

“We are very proud to be able to host such a wonderful event which is enjoyable, affordable and allows us to share our fantastic facilities and Acklam Grange family with our local community and their families.”

Our 2k family fun run brought children and families together in a fun and enjoyable way. Our more competitive AGS Acorn trail race, with entries from individuals and affiliated runners, concluded in a tense finish with the top four males battling it out for first place with only a five second margin between them. The winning results were:

Male 2k

1st Bradley Povey
2nd Liam Brittle
3rd Ben Grounds

Female 2k

1st Harriet Roger
2nd Millie Allen
3rd Tegan Smith

Male 5k

1st Dean Newton
2nd Alex Kiei
3rd Josh Cowperthwaite

Female 5k

1st Sue Phillips
2nd Linda Noble
3rd Megan Noble



Guests also enjoyed our local children's charity 'Hope for Holly' bake-off competition with showstopper cake entries capturing the imagination and taste buds of many of our guests. First place was awarded to Hayley Allen for her 'chocolate explosion' cake. We hope to see many more entries next year as this really was an event favourite.

Special thanks to Zoe's place, another local children's charity, for their help and support on the day.

“These GCSE results are the best ever in our school's history. They are the culmination of focus, hard work, commitment and dedication shown by our students and our staff. These outstanding results – excellent across all subjects - secure our place as a top performing school in the country, in the region and in Middlesbrough, confirming and surpassing our recent Ofsted inspection (February 2016) judgement of a 'good school with outstanding features'. Well done and best wishes to students and thanks to our parents and our staff.”

We look forward to welcoming our new Year 7 students in September. If you and your child want to be part of our continuing success story please contact us on 01642 277700 for more information.

Former students receive coveted PIXL awards

On Thursday 22nd September it was with great pride that we accompanied five of our former Year 11 students and their parent/carers to the National PIXL Awards at Central Hall, Westminster.

Tahmina Bonyadi, Mustaffa Al-Kafishi, Lucy Pottinger and Georgia Linton were nominated by the school and received an award for outstanding achievement and progress throughout Year 11.

We also nominated Charlotte Sargeson for a special award for achieving excellent GCSE results, despite overcoming personal difficulties during Year 11. It was a proud moment when Charlotte took to the stage to be presented



IMPORTANT INFORMATION

Term Dates & PD Days 2016/2017

Autumn Term 2016/2017

5 September 2016 - 16 December 2016 (inclusive)

Holidays

19 December 2016 - 2 January 2017 (inclusive)

(students return on 4 January 2017 due to a PD Day on 3 January 2017)

Spring Term 2016/2017

4 January 2017 - 7 April 2017

Holidays

20 February 2017 - 24 February 2017

Summer Term 2016/2017

24 April 2017 - 21 July 2017

Holidays

10 April 2017 - 21 April 2017

29 May 2017 - 2 June 2017

PD Days

Friday 25 November 2016

Tuesday 3 January 2017

Monday 26 June 2017

*Please note that the school is closed to **all** students during **all** PD days

Acklam Grange School

Lodore Grove

Acklam

Middlesbrough

Tel: 01642 277700

Fax: 01642 277701

Email: acklamgrange@acklamgrange.org.uk

Website: www.acklamgrange.org.uk

Twitter: @AcklamGrange

Parents' Mailing Reply Slip May 2016

Please return this form to School by Wednesday 1 June 2016 to confirm receipt of the half termly mailing for May 2016. You can return it by post or in a sealed envelope via the School Office.

Name.....Student.....Tutor.....

Comment

SignatureDate