

October 2021

Dear Parents/Carers

It gives me great pleasure to write to you as we approach the end of our first half term. Unfortunately, it has again been a half term that has seen disruption, but as always, all our students and staff have faced it with resilience and a determination to do the best they can, despite the ongoing challenges they face.

In September, it was fantastic to finally welcome 326 new Year 7 students to the Academy. It has been amazing to see how quickly they have settled into the Academy routines and how well they have adjusted to this next phase in their educational journey. This success is a testament to the transition work that was undertaken in the summer term, our fantastic and well attended summer school and to our committed team of Year 7 tutors, led by Mrs Wright and Mr Bambrough. It was lovely to see so many of you at the Academy this week at our Y7 form tutor evening and that you were able to meet your son/daughter's form tutor to discuss their progress during this first half term.

In addition, we also welcomed 200 students back into our sixth form to begin their Post 16 education. It has been lovely to see the sixth form alive with excited, focussed students who are fully engaged in their new courses.

Over the summer, we continued to refurbish the Academy where possible, and are immensely grateful to our caretaking team, who tirelessly undertake this work each year. This summer's work included:

- Continuation of decoration and heating maintenance/upgrade and roof.
- Major refurbishment works;
  - Completion of new fencing of site and new visitor reception pod
  - New toilets in Humanities
  - Refurbishment of sixth form toilets
  - Upstairs in sixth form – painting, lighting and new flooring
  - Paint History block
  - Refurbishment of old children's centre

As always, the areas that they have spent time on look fantastic!

We had two amazing days of celebrations in August when Year 11 and 13 students came into the Academy to collect their GCSE and A level teacher assessed grades. All of our students achieved individual success and we are delighted with the results they gained this summer, as they were richly deserved, as they worked so hard for them. It was wonderful to see so many happy, excited students when they celebrated on both mornings as they collected their results.

Our students achieved outstanding results at both Key Stages 4 and 5. Our Academic Value Added score of +0.28 at Key Stage 5 and our Key Stage 4 Progress 8 score of +0.80, continue to demonstrate that we are one of the highest performing providers in the region. Most importantly, all our students at both Key Stages were successful in securing places which enabled them to either remain with us or move onto further education providers as appropriate to

their individual needs and high numbers of our students accepted University places to begin courses this year. At Key Stage 4, 83% of our students achieved a grade 4 and above in English and Maths, with 63% achieving a grade 5 and above. We continue to be very proud of all our students and their success is a reflection of their hard work and determination regardless of the challenges they faced this year, as well as the dedication of our staff and the continued support of our parents/carers, for which we are extremely grateful and appreciative. We wish all of our students the very best of luck in their next steps and look forward to hearing about their future achievements and successes.

Two weeks ago the Academy hosted its annual Open Evening and it was amazing to welcome prospective parents, carers and students back into the Academy building this year. It was an incredibly busy evening and the Academy was bursting with visitors and our new Year 7s were so excited to be able to show them round and tell them all about their experiences so far! Thank you to everyone who supported the event, we are extremely grateful for all the continued support.

Dates for your diary for this half term:

- 22<sup>nd</sup> October – Academy closes for half term break
- 1<sup>st</sup> November – Academy re-opens following half term break
- 11<sup>th</sup> November – Sixth form Open evening 4.30–7.30pm
- 17<sup>th</sup> November – Training Day – Academy closed to all students
- 18<sup>th</sup> December – Academy closes for Christmas break

Please do not hesitate to contact the Academy if you have any concerns or queries.

The Learning Managers for each year group are:

Year 7	Mr Bambrough	<a href="mailto:bambroughd@garforthacademy.org.uk">bambroughd@garforthacademy.org.uk</a>
Year 8	Mrs Burns	<a href="mailto:burnsn@garforthacademy.org.uk">burnsn@garforthacademy.org.uk</a>
Year 9	Mr Sellers	<a href="mailto:sellersl@garforthacademy.org.uk">sellersl@garforthacademy.org.uk</a>
Year 10	Mrs Curran	<a href="mailto:curranl@garforthacademy.org.uk">curranl@garforthacademy.org.uk</a>
Year 11	Mr Kreig	<a href="mailto:kreigj@garforthacademy.org.uk">kreigj@garforthacademy.org.uk</a>
Year 12	Mr Harris	<a href="mailto:harrisw2@garforthacademy.org.uk">harrisw2@garforthacademy.org.uk</a>
Year 13	Miss Allen	<a href="mailto:allenk4@garforthacademy.org.uk">allenk4@garforthacademy.org.uk</a>

Please could we ask you to check your son/daughter's planner on a weekly basis and encourage them to complete homework on time and to the best of their ability. Can I remind you that there are numerous support clubs/sessions available to all students should they require additional help.

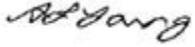
As restrictions have eased, it has been wonderful to be able to return to a full extra-curricular programme. We have an amazing range and number of activities on offer to our students and would urge you to look at our website to see what is available and encourage your son/daughter to join in! It is also fantastic that trips and visits have resumed and we have had a number of sports fixtures and Duke of Edinburgh trips already this half term. I know that both students and staff alike have thoroughly enjoyed these resuming.

We continue to recognise the fantastic achievements of our students through Proud Thursday, with teachers and parents nominating students who have done something that stands out either at home, in the community or in school. Please do look at/follow our Twitter page (@DeltaGarforth) to see all the amazing achievements and celebrate with our students.

As I mentioned in my school comms to you all at the end of the first week, we have been extremely impressed with the maturity and resilience that all our students have again shown. We are very proud of each and every student for their contribution to making this first half term such a success. A massive thank you to all our parents also for their continued support and understanding in these challenging times.

With my very best wishes,

Keep safe and well,



**Mrs A. Young**  
**Principal**