



Sir Frederic Osborn School

Achieving Success Together

T: 01707 351350

F: 01707 351357

E: admin@sfosborn.herts.sch.uk

Headteacher: Mr J C Whelan BA, NPQH

Herns Lane, Welwyn Garden City

Hertfordshire AL7 2AF

16 July 2018

Dear Parent/Carer

I hope everyone has enjoyed the recent prolonged warm weather and that we are all looking forward to our summer holidays.

These are exciting times for our school as we become closer to the opening our new Ridgeway Academy. There have been lots of recent developments with the arrival of the new uniform and the start of our building refurbishments.

With all the focus on the future, I would ask that we take a little bit of time to consider the past.

It was in 1956 that a school was first opened on the Herns Lane site, it was called the High School. Four years later Attimore Secondary Modern School opened. It was in 1968 that both schools amalgamated and were renamed Sir Fredric Osborn School. All this goes to show that things change in the world of education, and we are now moving to a new chapter of our history as Ridgeway Academy. The past achievements and successes of our students will still be recognisable around the school but this will also be an opportunity for our current students to write their own history.

We are determined that the new Ridgeway Academy flourishes and is at the heart of our local community.

We are looking forward to working with the whole community as we strive for even greater success for all our young people. By working together, we can ensure that all students enjoy their time at school, make excellent progress and leave us with the necessary skills and attitudes to lead successful and fulfilling lives.

The first step in any school improvement is the raising of expectations. It is important that we are ambitious and I know that our students will always respond positively to a challenge. So, from 4 September 2018 we are introducing some changes that we believe will make a significant impact on our school culture. Your support with these changes will be greatly appreciated and will help us get off to a positive and successful start in September.

Arrangements for Tuesday 4 September 2018

Year 7 students arrive at 8.20am for 8.30am

Year 8, 9, 10 and 11 students arrive at 10.50am ready for form time at 11.05am (period 3)

Sixth form students arrive at 8.30am.

All students will finish school at the usual time of 2.55pm on Tuesday 4 September 2018

Start of the school day

To start each day on a positive note we would like all students to arrive promptly and enter the site through our designated entrances only. I and other members of the Senior Leadership Team will greet students at the entrances every morning. This initial first contact is a very important part of showing that we care for and welcome all students to the school.

Achieving Success Together

www.sfosborn.herts.sch.uk

No bells at lesson change overs

From September 2018 we will be trialling for the first half term the restricted use of school bells. Everybody is aware of the timings of our school day and the students will acclimatise to moving around the building without the regular use of bells. The only exceptions will be a bell that starts the school day off at 8.25am, indicating school starts in 5 minutes. There will also be a bell at 1.50pm, reminding everyone that the afternoon session starts in 5 minutes.

Uniform

Uniform is a priority in terms of having high expectations of our students. Therefore, any student wearing incorrect uniform items will be challenged at the school entrance. Students without the correct uniform will not be permitted to enter the site and will be sent home immediately to get the correct uniform and will be required to return to school wearing the correct uniform. This includes the regulation trousers and skirts.

Equipment

All students are expected to come to school every day with the equipment they need to be successful. This includes a full set of stationery, PE kit, a reading book, their school planner and an appropriate school bag large enough to carry everything needed for school.

Target setting

We will be setting challenging and aspirational subject targets for all students based on their previous performance and the performance of similar ability students in the top performing 5% of schools in the country. These targets reflect our high expectations but also our belief that our students can make the very highest levels of progress with the support and challenge we offer at school along with parental encouragement and guidance.

Mobile phones and electronic devices

We recognise that mobile phones and other portable electronic devices are important to our students for contacting parents and carers as a safety precaution to and from school. We do not ban mobile devices from the school premises but expect students to place them out of sight. We do not allow the use of mobile phones and portable devices inside the school site. The only exception to this will be if a teacher specifically asks for students to use their mobile phone or electronic device in a lesson for the purposes of learning.

House system

We are very excited at the launch of our new House system and we are looking forward to using this as a means to integrate everyone into our school community, allowing students from different year groups to work more closely together. Mr Milne and the House Leaders will be explaining more about this as our House system develops.

Thank you very much for taking the time to read this letter and thank you in advance for your support. We are determined to do the very best for Ridgeway Academy. We will always put students first when making decisions and we are excited and enthused to be opening our new school in September.

I hope you have an enjoyable summer.

Yours sincerely



Jed Whelan
Headteacher