



FERNHILL SCHOOL

COMMUNICATION HOME

6th September 2019

Dear Parent(s)/Carer(s)

Welcome back, I do hope you've enjoyed time in the sun with your family, home or away. It's been great to see the students back today, and it's especially nice to welcome the new Year 7 to Fernhill.

The students look very smart and well turned-out, and for that I am very grateful to you as parents. You have responded magnificently to our requests for support in this area and we have had only one or two issues to manage today as a result – thank you!

I am delighted to say that the exam results were up significantly this year - the first time that there has been an increase in three years. I was particularly pleased with improvements in English and Maths and a strong set of Science results. I have told the new Year 11s that their challenge is to do even better!

I can of course be confident of further improvements as we have appointed some fantastic new staff, to complement the strong teachers we already have at the school:

Miss Speed - Geography
Mr Poole - Geography
Ms Wright - Drama
Mr Ward - PE
Mr Rowland - PE
Miss Reeder - PE
Miss Spain - English
Miss Reeder - Cover Supervisor
Mrs Anderson - Admin Assistant

As per our letter last term, we have also improved our pastoral support system with five Heads of Year supported by three Student Support Workers based in J block in the 'Pastoral Hub'. We have also opened our 'Uniform Hub' today, which is well stocked with everything a student might need, to allow us to address issues of deliberate defiance around uniform, but also to help where there is a temporary financial issue or in unfortunate instances of split trousers, broken soles or forgotten sweatshirts!

I am sure you will be pleased to hear that we are also taking a very hard line this year in terms of student behaviour, especially that persistent, low level disruption which ruins children's lessons. Students who disrupt and do not heed warnings to stop, will swiftly be sent to another teacher, usually the Head of Department, so that other students can learn uninterrupted. There is no longer a 'Patrol' or 'Learning Walk' teacher, the student will be expected to go without argument. If they fail to do so, they will be collected by a senior member of staff and taken to the Isolation Room for the rest of the day, including break and lunchtimes. Parents will then be required to attend a meeting within 24 hours to discuss this behaviour. I am certain that this will soon serve as a deterrent to those students who 'pick and choose' which lessons to behave in – perhaps they will think twice about disrupting in Science during lesson 1 if it means that they then miss cooking and a game of football as well...

We have a new Fitness Suite in C block which looks fantastic and I know the students are really excited about using this. I spoke to the students about this in assembly before the summer. It will provide a great facility for them and attract new students to the school. Our plan is to add to it over time.

We look forward to meeting parents at our welcome evenings this month starting with Year 11 on Monday 9th September and Year 7 on Wednesday 11th September. These evenings start at 6.00 pm and I would really encourage you to attend. Please see the dates below for the other evenings to come. We will also be launching our new website at these events, which will go live on 20th September. Please do join us - things are really changing at Fernhill and there is a tangible excitement in the air and I would not want you to miss the opportunity to hear all about it.

Have a great weekend

Mark Kingswood

Letters and Information issued this week

Year 7 – on Monday a form regarding consent for taking your child's photo will be coming home. We would be grateful if this could be returned to tutors next week please in time for the school photos. Many thanks.

To view letters home <http://www.fernhill.hants.sch.uk/Forms-and-Letters-home>

School Meals

Hampshire County Council have informed us that the cost of a full school meal (main, pudding and a drink) will rise to £2.40 from September. The Free School Meal allowance will rise accordingly.

Careers

Insight into Careers

- Hampshire and Isle of Wight Air Ambulance is offering a fantastic workshop in school for students interested in medical careers or becoming a pilot.
- Amazon Filters Engineering, based in Camberly, is offering a tour of their business for future engineers.

If either of these opportunities appeal to your child (Years 8 - 11), please ask them to see Mrs Murdoch in the library. Both events will take place in school time, we just need to know who would like to take part at this stage.

Year 11 Parents College Open Evenings

Please see the attached document from Hampshire Futures, which details all of the college open evenings. Our Post 16 Options Evening on Tuesday 1st October will provide more information and be an opportunity to meet college staff. You are strongly advised to ensure that your child attends the relevant events in order to make an informed decision.

Fernhill School Library

Welcome to the new school year, it was lovely to meet Year 7 students today as they came to explore the library. Well done to those students who also handed in their summer challenge sheet, some wonderful book reviews, short stories and bookmark designs. Excellent! We need to take this opportunity to draw your attention to page 7 of your child's planner. Please read this section and if your child is in Year 7 or 8 note the section about T+ fiction. We hope the guidance notes help, but if you have any questions do please contact Mrs Murdoch in the library.

All parents/guardians, please note that it is school policy to charge for lost or damaged books. We are sure you will agree that the budget needs to be spent on new books. Thank you for your support.

Calendar of Forthcoming Events

To view the school calendar <http://www.fernhill.hants.sch.uk/Calendar>

September 2019

4th	INSET Day 1, school closed to students
5th	INSET Day2, school closed to students
6th	Return to school for Autumn Term
9th	Welcome to Year 11 Evening 6.00 pm
11th	Welcome to Year 7 Evening 6.00 pm
13th	School photographs
16th	Welcome to Year 10 Evening 6.00 pm
18th	Welcome to Year 9 Evening 6.00 pm
19th	Welcome to Year 8 Evening 6.00 pm
23rd	Year 6 parent and student tours 9.00 – 10.15 am
24th	Year 6 parent and student tours 9.00 – 10.15 am
25th	Open Evening for Year 6 parents and students 6.00 – 8.00 pm
30th	Year 6 parent and student tours 9.00 – 10.15 am

October 2019

30th	Year 6 parent and student tours 9.00 – 10.15 am
1st	Year 6 parent and student tours 9.00 – 10.15 am
1st	Year 11 Post 16 Options Evening 6.00 – 7.30 pm
10th	Year 6 parent and student tours 9.00 – 10.15 am
11th	Year 6 parent and student tours 9.00 – 10.15 am
17th	Year 6 parent and student tours 9.00 – 10.15 am
18th	Year 6 parent and student tours 9.00 – 10.15 am
23rd	Year 6 parent and student tours 9.00 – 10.15 am
24th	Year 11 Parents' Evening 4.30 – 7.00 pm
28th Oct to 1st Nov	AUTUMN HALF TERM HOLIDAY

November 2019**4th** **Return to school**

14th Year 7 Parents' Evening 4.30 – 7.00 pm

27th Ex Year 11 Certificate Evening 6.00 – 7.00pm

December 2019

5th Year 11 Mock exams begin

5th Year 10 Parents' Evening 4.30 – 7.00 pm

20th **School closes at 12.20 pm for CHRISTMAS HOLIDAYS****January 2020****6th** **Return to school for Spring Term**