



Friday 3rd January 2020

Dear parents/carers

I hope that you have had a good break and that the students are looking forward to coming back to school.

School starts as normal on Monday 6th January at 8.50 am. I am writing to you to inform of some changes from January 2020. Firstly, I will be taking over the day to day running of the Academy. I will be well supported by the secondary Vice Principals and the primary Principal. Therefore, if you have any serious concerns or questions, please contact them in the first instance via email – please see details below:

- Primary Pupils- Louise.Feaver@FolkestoneAcademy.com
- Year 7&8 pupils- Louisa.Coppins@FolkestoneAcademy.com
- Year 9&10 pupils- Steven.Shaw@FolkestoneAcademy.com
- Year 11 pupils- Wesley.Carroll@FolkestoneAcademy.com
- Year 12&13 pupils- Ben.Williams@FolkestoneAcademy.com

I will hold a weekly drop in for parents, no appointment required, on Thursday mornings from 9am to 10am. I also recognise that communication between the school and parents/carers needs to improve so we will be publishing staff's contact details on the website to ease getting in touch. As you may be aware, our school telephone system does not work well and we will be increasingly using email as the best point of contact. Therefore, we will be asking you in the New Year to provide an up to date email address to help us share more information with you about your children's progress and behaviour.

In the Secondary phase, I am concerned about the number of students who either are late to school or absent. The national average for attendance is 95%, which equates to less than one day missed a month. Currently too many students are not in school and therefore struggling to catch up on the work they missed. I am also concerned about the number of secondary age students who come to school without a bag that can hold an A4 folder. Please ensure that all pupils have a bag big enough for school in the New Year.

I believe that students need to be in school to achieve and rather than use exclusion, I will be holding Saturday detentions from 9am to 11am. I will expect parents to accompany their children in full uniform to school if they receive a Saturday detention for significantly failing to follow Academy procedures. I thank you for your support in advance with this initiative so that we can ensure no students miss school lessons unnecessarily.

Finally, I would like to welcome all the staff new to the Academy. I would also like to introduce new leaders. These include Ben Williams, Vice Principal who has responsibility for the Sixth Form and science, Katy Tibbles who is Head of School Support and responsible for communication, student services and reception, Jo Loveridge, Director of English and Beth Higgins Head of Year 7.

I look forward to working with you all

Seamus Murphy
Executive Principal