



Furrowfield School

Together We Succeed

Head Teacher – Miss H E Scott

Chair of Governors: Mr R Marshall

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13th December 2024

Dear Parent/Carer

Once again thank you for all your support this term from everyone at Furrowfield School.

Thank you to all parents/carers who attended our Parent/Carer afternoons, our Remembrance Day Service and our Macmillan Coffee morning this term. We very much appreciate your support.

This term has been a very busy one. We have been getting used to our new LED lighting throughout the school, which was part of a major rewiring project over the summer holidays. This cost over £500k. This means we can now dim all classroom lights, we have scene setting in Latitude 55, the Exhibition Space and the Sports Hall and all lights are worked on sensors meaning at Furrowfield School we are doing our bit saving energy and climate change.

We have also updated all classrooms having had these redecorated and have replaced all carpets. Furrowfield is looking good. We have also installed new computers in all classrooms and have created a computer suite in the main building.

We continue to develop our curriculum adding The Avril Music Therapy room to our accommodation, ensuring students in Years 7, 8 and 9 all have discrete music lessons on the timetable, additionally, students in any Year Group can join in with our daily Ukelele Club and our Music Clubs on Wednesday and Friday. We have added to our Sports options and now having swimming firmly within our curriculum for all different levels of swimmers from non-swimmers to Gala level swimmers. We will be forming our own swimming team from January and have our first competitive swimming gala to attend at the beginning of 2025.

We continue to work on promoting positive relations between students through our 'Be Kind' initiative and have received the National Bullying Intervention Group's BIG Award for anti-bullying. Please do help by ensuring you monitor which social media platforms your child is using, how they are using this and who they are talking to, while ensuring that they are both using the internet safely but that they are also enjoying the great outdoors to support their mental health.

We continue to develop our Therapeutic Assessment and Support Centre (TASC). This is in the former accommodation block which has had the first stage of a refresh completed. By the end of next week we will have a Cardio Therapy fitness room with treadmills, rowing machines, Ski Ergs and exercise bikes installed. This is a brand new development in school which we are very much looking forward to. In addition, we are putting the finishing touches to our Reading Room which will be open for the start of the new term. This will focus on Reading for Pleasure for all of our students.

In January we will be opening our Art Therapy Room, our Brick by Brick Lego Therapy Room and will have additional counselling room.

We will also be planning for additional building works on site creating three additional classrooms and the TASC Centre being fully rewired including upgraded CCTV. This will be completed over the summer but we are planning the design of this now.

Our LA School Improvement Partner (SIP) was in school last week visiting lessons, speaking with the Leadership Team and staff in school and looking at all of our developments. We were delighted that he was impressed with everything he saw and everything we are doing, most especially in the high quality of teaching being delivered in classrooms.

All staff continue to work hard ensuring that your child or child in your care is receiving the broadest curriculum possible and are preparing for adulthood.

We finish this term at the usual time of **2.30pm on Friday 20th December 2024. This is our Christmas Jumper Day.** We are already looking forward to the start of the Spring Term which starts on **Tuesday 7th January 2025.**

We expect all of our students to return on **Tuesday 7th January** in full school uniform and with a positive attitude to learning for the Spring Term. If any parent/carer would like some help with uniform costs please do not hesitate to contact the school on (0191) 4954700 or furrowfieldschool@gateshead.gov.uk. The uniform is cornflower blue polo shorts, black trousers and plain fully black shoes or trainers with no branding shown.

This leaves me to wish you all a very happy, healthy and joyous Christmas with comfort and good fortune for 2025.

With very many festive wishes



Miss H E Scott
Head Teacher