

19th July 2018

Dear Parent/Carer,

I write to thank you for your support during the school year. It has been one of significant progress in many areas and we could not achieve this without the support of our community.

In particular, I want to thank those of you who have worked with me to keep our young people safe from the various risks they face in the local area or on social media - we are finding that there are beginning to be fewer cases where our students misuse their phones or become caught up in difficulties outside school and I am grateful to all of you for helping us deliver those messages to them.

There will be some changes next year, as you might expect. The most significant is that the academy is now formed from four houses which are of mixed year group, and this allows us to introduce competition and collaboration to the students in a controlled way. From September we will also be increasing the number of top sets, a reflection of the increased progress a great many students are now making. For some students this may feel like a challenge and they may be nervous about this change - but they needn't be; they are learning fast, working hard and their potential is great - we want to push them to achieve it.

Finally, I want to share with you some personal highlights from this year. Firstly, the awards GAA students have won through the year, including our SSNAP team who were in demand for local radio and media events recently. Secondly, the spelling bee participants, champions - and all the students who cheered them loudly every time they needed encouragement or secured a particularly difficult word - made me so proud this week. And I must tell you how immensely fabulous our Sports Day was, with all students and staff together on the field shouting support and enjoying each other's company - a genuine community and a day that showed me just how strong our GAA family is.

It has been my pleasure and privilege to lead GAA this year and to get to know so many of you. I am looking forward to 2018-19 and all the hard work and opportunities it will bring.

Speaking of which - term starts in September for Y7 at 8.30am on Wednesday 5th September and for all other year groups at 8.30am on Thursday 6th September. Please support us by making sure all students are in full uniform, with appropriate footwear, natural hair colours, no jewellery or make-up - as usual. In the meantime, we finish tomorrow at 12.05pm, and students can wear their own clothes for a 50p donation to our own new fundraising appeal which is to support the purchase of a climbing wall... (more about that next year!).

Until then - have a fantastic summer, and do get in touch if you have any queries.

Yours faithfully



Mrs J. Langley
Principal