



15th July 2019

Dear Parent/Carer

I am writing to thank you all for your support through another year at GAA. We have been busy, as always and I am delighted to report that GAA is no longer in Special Measures after our final monitoring visit was converted to a full inspection this term. While there is still work to do, our practice has improved considerably with Leadership, Teaching, Learning and Assessment recognised as now Good. Within our ethos and vision inspectors recognise our strengths in terms of student welfare, safeguarding, personal development, inclusive practice and support for vulnerable students and want us now to work to reduce exclusions and ensure that all students achieve and behave as well as the best all the time. I am personally very pleased that we have come out of Special Measures so strongly and want to assure you that there will be no complacency – we remain determined that this community will have an outstanding school and are continuing to work to that aim.

The report is available on the Ofsted website and on our website in the Parent>Ofsted section. Finally on this, school improvement is about partnership – and the work and relationships you have helped us to develop between home and school in support of the students has been a large part of our progress. Education is hard and many young people face some difficulties in getting through, while we know there are times when this is hard for us and for you, we absolutely recognise and thank you for all you do to work with us.

I want to let you know of some of the highlights of this past term of course. Firstly, the fabulous Sports Day, the second we have had where we got the whole school out for an afternoon of competition and friendly rivalry in the sun; secondly, the many trips, visits and events in school from the “Stardome” where Geographers learned about volcanoes, to the author visit across English and History, to the Bushcraft and DofE trips and the many students being recognised with rewards trips and Celebration Evenings because they have done so well this year – we are so proud of all of them; thirdly the many leadership roles our students fulfil – from leading the drive for safer social media with the SSNAP team to the recent Ambassador and School leadership roles for new KS4 students next year, we are delighted with the maturity and skills of our young people; finally, the incredible work done in subjects across the curriculum, including for the first time in KS3, “bug photography”!

But of course – it is nearly the end of term now and all the students will be ready for a rest. *We will be finishing at 12.05pm on the last day of term which is Friday July 19th*, and students are allowed to come in their own (appropriate!) clothes on that day for a 50p donation, to be split between a charity of the students’ choosing and the funds for the GAA Ecuador expedition.

Finally, please have a really fabulous summer with family and friends and we will be back in September – key dates below. It remains my privilege and pleasure to be with you in this community and to work with your children every day.

Yours sincerely

Mrs J Langley
Principal

September 2nd – INSET

September 3rd – INSET

September 4th – Year 7 only start at 8.30am

September 5th – All year groups return at 8.30am