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Dear Parent/Carer,

As this academic year draws to a close I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for the support you have given me in my first year as Headteacher at Central Lancaster High School. What an exciting year it has been, full of opportunities for all of our pupils and this term's Focus magazine really highlights the range of fantastic work your children have been involved in.

The pack you are receiving at the end of this term includes key information for you and some details of changes which will be effective from September 2017.

The first of these changes is linked to our staffing. Following a hugely successful and rewarding 44 years, Mrs Bonney is retiring. The contribution that Mrs Bonney has made to our school over this time is immeasurable. I know that many of you reading this letter will also have been taught by Mrs Bonney and she has ensured that Central Lancaster High School has delivered a high level of care and support for many, many young people. She will be so missed by so many at our school and I would like to wish her the happiest retirement on behalf of the Governors and all at our school.

Mrs O'Farrell has been appointed as the Deputy Headteacher from September; she has great experience of our school and is absolutely committed to our development for the future. Mrs O' Farrell will be the senior lead with responsibility for Safeguarding and Child Protection and will lead our student support provision in school. A full staff list detailing other changes to some roles in school is available on our new school website.

For us to respond effectively to the feedback and next steps actions we were given by Ofsted, we will be moving to a model of mixed attainment teaching for year 7 and 8 from September 2017. This will enable us to remove our current banding arrangements and move pupils more freely between groups, based on their individual rates of progress. Our staff development has, and will continue to be, focussed on high challenge for all pupils, encouraging "thinking hard" and delivering classes using a range of teaching techniques which enables every individual pupil to make progress. From year 8 mathematics will continue to be set in order to scaffold gaps in arithmetic and to offer the highest level of challenge to all learners. From year 9 mathematics and science will commence their GCSE teaching to ensure they are able to meet the more demanding curriculum that is now expected at GCSE. We have been working with other schools with similar profiles to ours, who have used this method of grouping to bring big improvements to their schools.

If you haven't visited our new website yet, please take a moment to do so, it is the first port of call for information about the school and we will be publishing copies of all of our letters on there from September. Our commitment to digital communication in the form of text messages, social media and email letters will support information being published on the website. If you need paper copies providing, then you should let us know as they will not be automatically provided.

We are also keen to ensure that payments to school are made using our online ScoPay system. Payments may be made online, in the Post Office, or as a last resort through our main reception, however we aim to avoid cash payments where possible. If you need a reminder of your log in details, please let us know.

A copy of 'The Central Way' has been included in your end of year pack and this includes a summary of our uniform expectations for September. I would like to remind you that from September all students must wear appropriate shoes to school, **trainers are no longer permitted** as part of the Central uniform. Should our pupils attend school in trainers in September they will be provided with plain black plimsolls to wear. Refusal to wear these will be sanctioned with isolation until appropriate alternative shoes are provided and incidents will be treated as failure to follow instructions.

Headteacher:
Nicola Hall BSc, MA, NPQH



We have also introduced a Central-specific school skirt this year. Girls may choose between the skirt or black school trousers. Details of this are provided in the Central Way. The new skirt is **compulsory for all year 7 students and new starters from other year groups**, who are choosing the skirt option and all other year groups will be able to change into the new skirt as they replace uniform. The deadline for all older students to be wearing the new skirt is September 2018. This means you will have had 1 year and 1 term's notice of the expected change. The rest of the school uniform, including updated and modernised PE kit has been renegotiated to make the prices cheaper for you. We have taken this into account when introducing the new style skirt. All uniform can be purchased from Uniform and Leisure on Common Garden Street in Lancaster.

Ties are available in the shop and at school reception. Pupils with ties that have been drawn on, the clip removed, or damaged will be expected to replace them to uphold the high standards expected of our school uniform.

We are currently seeing an increase in body piercing amongst our pupils. I would like to take this opportunity to remind you that no body piercings are allowed in school for health and safety reasons. Pupils will be asked to remove any jewellery from piercings whilst in school. New piercings should only be made in the six week holidays to give them chance to heal before school term restarts.

In the new term we will be launching a 100% attendance competition which all of our students will be entered for. A copy of a poster advertising this attendance initiative is included in your information pack.

During the course of next year, we will be focussing on developing our ACE programme. ACE represents Aspiration, Character and Endeavour and we will be working with all of our students to develop exciting extra-curricular programmes, broader international opportunities, aspiration-raising experiences and excellent advice and guidance for every member of our school. As I mentioned earlier in the year, we are also working hard to develop an improved curriculum offer, with the introduction of Technology-based subjects for years 7, 8 and 9 from September 2017. If you and your children think there are extra-curricular activities and new areas of the curriculum which we should consider, or if you have contacts which may be able to support our development, please do get in touch.

We are also re-shaping our Duke of Edinburgh programme from September; our Bronze Award will now be open to year 9 students. This is an excellent opportunity for students to gain both this and the Silver Award before year 11, thus enabling them to concentrate on important GCSE studies in year 11.

In your pack is a flow chart of who to contact in school when you have any concerns. Historically the point of contact in school has often been Mrs Bonney, so we are keen to ensure that you know who best to contact in relation to your child's well-being and progress. This information is also included on our school website on the student pages. We would be very grateful if you could follow the flowchart which will ensure you get the most effective response to your queries.

Our new school day commences on 4th September which is the first day of term. Full details of the school day are in The Central Way booklet. If you have a child in year 11 please remember that they have extended sessions on Tuesdays and Wednesdays which are a compulsory part of their GCSE studies. Failure to attend these taught sessions will be treated as truancy in the same way as any other element of the school day. Sessions will rotate each half term to ensure pupils are well supported across all of their GCSE subjects. In due course, we aim to develop the same model for year 10.

Thank you for reading these important updates, all that remains is for me to wish you a pleasant summer break. Term restarts on Monday 4th September 2017.

Yours sincerely,



Nicola Hall