

Vision: To inspire students to become **confident, ethical and compelling** individuals with the aspiration and qualities to shape a **better future for all**.

Values: Respect, Responsibility, Curiosity and Resilience

April 2021

Dear parents/carers,

Re: FHS School Improvement & expectations for September 2021

Hope you are all well and feeling safe. Thank you very much for your support throughout what has been a challenging academic year. FHS is hoping to move gradually back to normality during terms 5 & 6. We hope to be opening in September 2021 without requiring the current Covid19 protocols.

The school's main focus since the return from lockdown has been to restore those routines & learning habits that support student learning. The school's attendance in this recovery period has been very good.

To support this continued improved attendance we have been understanding of the problems that parents/carers & students have had regarding uniform. For example, many students have outgrown their school uniform & it has been impossible to buy replacements when the shops are closed. We have also modified our expectations around uniform to reduce the infection rate for Covid19.

From September 2021 we will expect all students to be in full school uniform. Please see the details at:

<https://academytrust.sgscol.ac.uk/the-forest-high-school/parents/uniform>

As a result of the success of the current arrangements regarding PE kit, we have decided that students can continue to wear their sports kits on days when they have PE. It is very important that all students wear the correct PE kit on these days. The expectations in these days will be as high as for normal uniform days.

FHS has been going through a period of rapid improvement. We have developed a high challenge, well-sequenced curriculum that aims to offer all our students a passionate grounding for future study. Please see below:

<https://academytrust.sgscol.ac.uk/the-forest-high-school/curriculum/our-curriculum>

All teaching staff have undertaken extensive training to ensure that we offer quality first teaching that is personalised for all our students (Using the Teacher Effectiveness Enhancement Programme & Rosenshine's Principles). The Relationships Strategy (which was introduced in September 2020) has been a great success. We are looking to extend this further through the use of restorative practice this coming September.



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All recent research indicates that improving the reading age of young people significantly improves their chances of success. As many of you will be aware, we have using the Accelerated Reader programme since 2018. This programme allows us to test student reading ages regularly and ensure that the books they reading are at the right level of challenge. You will also be aware that all lessons begin with 10 minutes of silent reading. From September 2021 we will be following a reciprocal reading strategy which will offer students the chance to talk about and reflect on their reading with other students, and with you as parents/carers. More details will follow. It is our objective to ensure that all students have a reading age which is at least equal to their chronological age by the end of Year Nine. This will allow every student to access the curriculum successfully.

Finally, we are currently piloting a small group intervention to improve the spoken & written English of our EAL (English as an Additional Language) students. Early indications are that this intervention has the potential to make a big difference to the future life chances of our EAL students.

If you like any clarification on any of the above, or if you would like to discuss any other issues, please feel free to contact me at john.whitehead@foresthg.org.uk.

Yours sincerely,



John Whitehead
Headteacher