

Dear Parent / Carer

Re: Community togetherness

I write to you at the end of a fairly eventful week at Joyce Frankland. There were lots of things to celebrate over the past five days including a very successful year 7 settling-in evening last night. It was great to see how well attended this was and how much these young people have enjoyed their first experience of secondary school. We also hosted a road safety presentation with year 7 this week which went very well and it has been a pleasure for me to lead assemblies for four cohorts about the importance of being a role-model. The focus and attention of pupils in these assemblies has been exemplary.

Updates this week for you are as follows:

1. Support for pupils on 446 – Next week, we will be increasing our usual well-being support for pupils who were on the 446 bus yesterday. If your child/ren are finding the trauma of this incident difficult to manage, please let their form tutor know or inform them to go to The Hive next week so that suitable support can be put in place as quickly as possible. Please ask your child/ren not to share images or videos of the incident as it is part of an ongoing police investigation. If you have any original versions please share directly with the police.
2. The “Standards Cycle” – Please can I remind all of our community that blazers are compulsory. If for some reason your child does not have a blazer, please can you write a note so that the Academy is aware and Smart Cards will not be signed.
3. Free school meals application process – If you think that your child/ren may be eligible for free school meals, please access [this Essex website link](#) which takes you through the criteria for this support and the application process.
4. Year 11 exams evening and mocks – We would like to make parents and carers of year 11 pupils aware that our mock examinations this year run from the week commencing 13th November. Additionally, we will be hosting an online Exams Evening on 30th October which will provide some key information about the public examinations process as well as some useful tips on study skills.
5. Year 7 parental survey – The Academy is conducting some research on the reasons why our year 7 parent and carer community chose to send their child/ren to our school. We have had an excellent response to this survey but would appreciate even more. The information helps us to understand which particular aspects of our Academy are attractive to the community and therefore unique selling points. If you have not yet managed to complete the survey, it can be accessed [here](#).
6. Co-curricular Clubs – This week we have published our exciting co-curricular timetable with a whole range of clubs and activities on offer for our pupils at lunchtime or after school. We have introduced Yoga and Wellbeing, Rubik’s cube and Maths Puzzle Club, Music Club along with Sports, Gardening and many more.
7. Student of the week - Please do let the Academy know of any special achievements that your child/ren may have achieved outside of the school gates. We like to celebrate these in my weekly newsletter to showcase the many talents of our pupil community.

This concludes the updates for this week. I am trying my best to slim them down this year as I fully understand that our “bandwidth” can only stretch to a certain level with all the information that is coming from school. I finish this week with an anecdote from an eyewitness to yesterday morning’s bus incident. They informed me yesterday that older pupils were actively removing debris so that younger pupils could exit the bus as safely as possible and helped to reassure them that everything was going to be okay. If that’s not what being a role model looks like, I don’t know what is.

In the words of the brilliant Bob Marley, one of my most favourite quotes: "You never know how strong you are, until being strong is your only choice."

Have a great weekend,
Duncan Roberts

Principal