

Dear Parent / Carer

Re: Onwards

After last week's bus incident, it has been good to return to a sense of calm and normality over the past five days. We have been popping into lessons and it has been great to see the pupils actively engaged in their learning. Whether it is a science experiment, studying a text in English, plotting out some improvisation in drama or learning about the skills of rugby on the field, the real pleasure of being a school leader is that we are in privileged position to see our curriculum in action. Next week we begin our school tours for prospective families to join our year 7 cohort in 2024/25. Although Open Evening was a real success, it is always pleasing to show our school to the community during a typical day. Once these tours are complete at the end of this half-term, we will once again launch our monthly tours for you, our current parents and carers, where you will have the chance to see the school in action and take part in a Q and A with a senior leader afterwards.

Updates this week for you are as follows:

1. Sixth Form Open Evening – The Academy is pleased to announce that our Sixth Form Open Evening will take place on **Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> October from 17:30-19:30**. We are inviting all of our year 10 and year 11 pupils to come and explore what our Sixth Form is all about. There will be a chance to discuss subject choices with our specialist staff, hear talks about what makes our Sixth Form unique and speak to some current Sixth Form students about what post-16 education at JFAN is like. We look forward to welcoming you on the night.
2. The "Standards Cycle" – It has been pleasing to see that uniform standards continue to improve at the Academy and we would like to thank parents and carers for their support with this. At the start of the year, we said that we would move onto a different 'standard' each fortnight. However, for the next two weeks we will continue to focus on standards of uniform as it is clearly having a positive impact but it is not quite consistently excellent as yet.
3. Access Control – We launched the first phase of our new access control throughout the site this week. This will be a significant change for the community to get used to, however, once we do it will have a really positive impact on our community. If a pupil leaves a building during lesson time, they will need to have a member of staff provide them with re-access into the building. Although this will take some getting used to, it keeps our community safe from intruders who may enter the site without permission or authorised access. Of course, this is a new initiative and there will be teething issues to work through. Therefore, the processes and procedures around access control will be continually reviewed.
4. Whisper - I would like to take this opportunity to remind the community that we subscribe to a software programme called Whisper, an anonymous reporting system for our pupils to inform us of a concern they might have about their or a peer's safety. They can text a message to 07860 021 323 starting with JFA21 and start their message. This will then be received by our pastoral team.
5. Working at JFAN – We would like to remind you that we have some exciting roles available at Joyce Frankland. If you would like to work at our great school, at an exciting time in its development, have a look at our applications page [here](#) and feel free to contact us if you would like any further information.
6. Student of the week - James H in year 8 competed in the UK National Windsurfing Championships Under 15 Techno 293 6.8 Class last weekend at Grafham Waters. All the top windsurfers from all around the UK attended the competition. James has only been windsurfing for two years but put in a fantastic performance and finished on the podium taking 3rd place. Windsurfing is an extremely difficult skill and we recognise and celebrate this excellent achievement – well done James.

This concludes the updates for this week. Sunday marks the first day of Black History Month in this country. Although I am a firm believer that opportunities to mark and celebrate Britain's diversity should not be restricted to one month, it is still important to recognise the significance of October for this reason. Next week, I will be launching a Principal's Competition around the theme of diversity with prizes for pupils to win. More on this next week. In the meantime, I wish you a positive and fulfilling weekend.

In the words of the truly inspirational astronaut, Dr. Mae Jemison, for whom we have a building named after, "Never be limited by other people's limited imaginations."

Duncan Roberts

Principal