

20 October 2017

Dear Parents and Carers

I just wanted to thank you all for your support this half-term and share with you some of our achievements over the last seven weeks. As I have said to anyone who will listen, this is an excellent school with fantastic staff and students. We will continue to improve what we do but I hope you will agree that we have achieved a lot this year already. We have established some new systems and routines (for behaviour and marking). New exercise books have improved the quality and pride students have for their work, and our lesson observations to date indicate that quality of teaching has improved significantly over the last 6-12 months. We have opened our amazing new sports hall and installed a brand new IT system. Our new school day, including STEP time, is working well. I am also delighted to announce that we have appointed Jane Rayson as Deputy Head. Jane is currently Assistant Head with responsibility for teaching and learning and will take up her new post in January. There will be further appointments to the senior team in the coming weeks and months and I will inform you of these changes as they arise.

Our new website is due to be launched in the next day or so. We have a new website address [www.framdurham.com](http://www.framdurham.com). Although there is still a significant amount of content to add over the next few weeks, the website contains all of the statutory information that should be there and, I hope, provides an excellent resource for parents. In particular, I would like to draw your attention to the information about each course and the breakdown of subject content each half-term.

For those who use Twitter, there are a number of accounts you may wish to follow:

- The school account: @fram\_official
- Our teaching and learning account: @framteaching
- My Headteacher account: @framheadteacher

Our sixth form and most of our directorates have accounts too. All of these provide useful information about different aspects of the school's provision.

There is a lot of work we still want to do. Behaviour in this school is excellent but as with all systems (whether it be homework, marking, behaviour or uniform), the trick is to introduce them, embed them and then slowly tighten them and improve them, as we seek to achieve even higher expectations and improve standards. I met with the Head of Education in Durham yesterday and am meeting our local MP this afternoon. There is so much goodwill towards this school in the community and local authority. I tell everyone I meet that Fram will be the top school in Durham within a year or two. That is not an arrogant statement and I don't want us to be aggressive about it or seek to poach students from elsewhere. I hope it will come simply through students and parents choosing us as a result of our caring approach for students, our values and ethos, and the quality of everything we do.

Thank you again for all your support this half-term; your children are a credit to you and the school. I hope you have a lovely holiday and I'm looking forward to next half-term already.

Yours sincerely,



Andy Byers  
Headteacher