



June 2018

Dear Parent or Carer

Following my welcome letter in March, I would like to provide you with further information to help support your child's smooth transition to the school in September. Please read this carefully and don't hesitate to get in touch if you need further clarification.

Start of Term

The new school year will begin on **Tuesday 4th September** at 8.30am. This year, for the first time, we have introduced a staggered start to the year so that only students in Years 7 and 12 will be in school that day; this gives them an excellent opportunity to get used to their new surroundings before the rest of the students start the following day.

Term Dates: Academic Year 2018/19

Please note the following term dates for the academic year:

Term 1

- **Monday 3rd September: Teacher Training Day: students do not attend**
- Half-Term 1: 4th September 2018 (for students in Y7) – Thursday 18th October 2018
- **Friday 19th October 2018: Teacher Training Day: students do not attend**
- Half-Term 2: Monday 29th October – Friday 21st December 2018

Term 2

- Half Term 3: Monday 7th January 2019 – Thursday 14th February 2019
- **Friday 15th February 2019: Teacher Training Day: students do not attend**
- Half-Term 4: Monday 25th February 2019 – Friday 5th April 2019

Term 3

- Half-Term 5: Tuesday 23rd April 2019 – Friday 26th May 2019
- Half-Term 6: Monday 3rd June 2019 – Friday 19th July 2019

Other key dates next year

- Drop-in session to meet tutors: Monday 15th October 2018; an opportunity to meet your child's form tutor to find out how they are settling in.
- X Band Parents' Evening: Thursday 17th January 2019
- Y Band Parents' Evening: Thursday 24th January 2019

NB – the year group will be split into 2 equal halves (X and Y Band) for some lessons, and you will find out in September which band your child is in (and therefore which evening to attend)

Uniform

In my previous letter I informed you about our new uniform and the date of our pop-up shop; next **Wednesday, 13th June 2018** in our main school hall, between 4.30pm and 6.30pm. In order to reduce the need for queues we are inviting parents of students from Bluecoat and Framwellgate Primary schools (our nearest feeder schools) to arrive from 3.30pm if they are able to.

Please note the following:

- If you are driving onto the school site to visit our pop-up shop, you are able to park on the main school yard, next to our new Sports Centre

- The uniform section of our website (www.framdurham.com) details our new **uniform policy** and **uniform requirements**. Please read these documents carefully as they have been updated slightly to reflect parental queries. In particular, we have clarified the point that the slipover/jumper is not compulsory all year round (and even when it is, teachers will allow students in lessons to remove blazers or jumpers in lessons if it is too warm).
- Our uniform supplier, Michael Sehgal and Sons Ltd, has written a letter about uniform purchases, also on the uniform section of our website; please read this carefully before visiting the pop-up shop. Parents can order on-line or by visiting their premises in Newcastle
- Parents of students on Free School Meals are entitled to obtain a voucher providing one blazer and one sleeveless pullover free of charge (this voucher is available once for each child throughout their time at the school). Vouchers will be available for collection on 13th June (or by emailing enquiries@framdurham.com after that date). Subsequent requests for support will be considered on a case-by-case basis, subject to funds being available.

The uniform requirements document provides guidance and examples of acceptable footwear. Please note these rules regarding footwear carefully.

Summer School

We will be running a Summer School, for students joining us in September. This (optional) event will run over three days on **29th, 30th and 31st August** and provides opportunities for students to take part in a range of fun activities run by older students and adults. It is an excellent opportunity to have fun, meet new people and become more familiar with the school. Further details will be provided at our welcome meeting (see below).

Head of Year 7

I am delighted to confirm that your child's Head of Year will be Dr Amy Smith. Dr Smith is one of our English teachers and worked closely with our Y7 students last year so is very familiar with the issues surrounding transition. In addition to your child's tutor, the key people for you to contact if you have any concerns before/after the start of the term are:

- Dr Amy Smith, Head of Year 7
- Mrs Kim Oldham, Senior Pastoral Manager (and responsible for Y7 transition)
- Mr Mark McCreedy, Director of Achievement Centre (and SENDCO)

Finally

Please remember the two key dates later this term:

- Welcome meeting for Parents/Carers: **Monday 9th July at 6.30pm**
- Induction day for new Year 7 students, joining in September: **Wednesday 11th July (arrival from 8.45am; the day starts at 9am). The day will end at 2pm**

As part of the transition process, students will be given a copy of a novel to read over the summer, accompanied by a booklet of activities to complete. If you would like additional assistance with this during the holidays, a support booklet will be made available on the library page of the school website in July. If you have any queries about the above, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Yours sincerely



Andy Byers
Headteacher