

WH/RNM

3rd September 2018

Dear Parents and Carers

We start the year with three huge causes for celebration, our exceptional GCSE results, our outstanding A Level results and the news that all the necessary legal process has been completed for us to join The GORSE Academies Trust (TGAT).

GCSE RESULTS

The Headline figures for our GCSE results are as follows:

- An indicative Progress 8 score of +0.28.
- 79% of students gained 4+ in Maths and 78% in English, with both subjects nearly 20% above national averages.
- 31% of English grades are 7-9 and 25% of Maths are at grade 7-9
- 75% of all entries were at grade 4+.
- 12% of all grades were at 8, 9 or A*
- 6% of grades were awarded at 9, representing performance in the top 3% of the country.
- 26% of all grades were awarded at 7-9 or A-A*
- 75% of students gained at least 5 grade 9-4 grades
- 67% gaining 5 grade 9-4 grades including English and Maths

We are very proud of all the students in Year 11 who contributed to these results; they are brilliant achievements.

A LEVEL RESULTS

- Average Points per Entry is 38.35, up 2.8; a figure no one has exceeded in Leeds
- An indicative Value added is 0.33
- A* grades were 11.4% of our grades, compared with 8% nationally
- A* to A grades 32%, compared with 26.4% nationally
- A* to C grades 85% compared with 77% nationally
- A* to E grades 99% compared with 97% nationally
- 95% students in the University of their choice; 40% at Russell Group Universities

The results are an exciting platform on which to build our Sixth Form partnership with TGAT's Ofsted rated 'Outstanding' Elliott Hudson College; together we will form a formidable partnership offering excellent Post 16 provision across the locality.

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JOINING TGAT

Having received notification of the Academy Order in June, I am delighted to report that we have been able to accelerate all the necessary legal process, which means that Boston Spa formally became part of the GORSE Academies Trust from 1st September 2018.

The letter from the minister declares his 'delight' at our conversion and notifies Leeds City Council that they should 'cease to maintain the school from 1st September 2018'. The future strategic direction of our school lies formally, legally and only within TGAT; it is of real significance that Boston Spa Academy cannot now be part of any reorganisation, merger or closure plans proposed by Leeds City Council. That period of uncertainty and disruption is over and will not be re-visited.

I am very pleased that the integrity of Governors' decision to partner with TGAT has been vindicated at the ministerial level, and that this year's results already demonstrate the impact of working in partnership in a such high performing Trust.

ARRANGEMENTS FOR TUESDAY 4th SEPTEMBER

We look forward to welcoming Years 7 to 13 into school tomorrow at 8.45. Year 7 should go straight to the Main Hall, other years should go straight to their tutor rooms.

My [letter](#) dated 13th July 2018 set out changes for the new school year as regards Positive Discipline, and included reminders about uniform and hairstyles. The letter also reminded you of the equipment needed each day, including a black pen, a purple pen and a green pen, 180 degree protractor, a 'dry wipe' marker pen, a pocket English dictionary and a Casio FX 83GT Plus calculator. These can all be purchased from Student Services if necessary. We will issue every student with a free planner, but any replacement will be charged at £5.50.

In the same letter I also explained that all exercise books will need to be protected by a plastic cover and through a bulk purchase within the trust we have secured packs of ten for £2.50. To make sure every book is protected from the start each student will be given one pack tomorrow, and the money will be collected during the following few days.

OPEN EVENING 2018

The academy calendar for parents for the new academic year is on our [website](#). The first key date will be Tuesday 18th September when we will close at 12.30 to allow for our Open Evening. This will start at 6.00pm, with a presentation from myself and Sir John Townsley. Given our exceptional examination results and the news of our conversion into the GORSE Academies Trust, there will be much to share, so please encourage your friends and neighbours to join us.

Thank you for your support for us; we are very pleased with the 'Class of 2018', and families can remain assured that the commitment to the highest standard of achievement for the Class of 2019 and beyond remain at our core.

Yours sincerely



CHRISTOPHER WALSH
Principal