

June 2024

Dear Parent/Carers

I hope that you and your families had a fantastic half term and found some time to rest and recuperate. Year 7 are now heading into their final half term of their first year as a GAA student and it is safe to say, they have relished the challenge that Mr Waugh set them in September of 'jumping in with both feet'.

- Since September, Year 7 have achieved 195,916 GREAT points
- Since September, Year 7 have been the highest attending year group in the school
- Achieved numerous wins from the Girls and Boys Football Teams

In addition to highlighting these achievements for the academic year, I also wanted to take this opportunity to thank you for your ongoing support in giving your child the best possible experience of secondary school. We recognised the first term is always traditionally a difficult start for our Year 7 students transitioning from primary school to secondary school. However, it now appears after the second term, they have fully embedded themselves into the GAA community and have done themselves proud by achieving so much, as mentioned above.

As you are aware our pastoral team are really supportive of your son/daughter. The Year 7 pastoral team consists of the following staff, and your child's form tutor should be your first port of call.

Head of Year: Mrs P Farrell			
Year Manager: Mrs L Broadbent			
Form	Tutor	Form	Tutor
7G	Mrs Thompson	7M	Ms Anderson
7R	Mr Crompton	7I	Mr Nelmes
7E	Mr Malcolm	7N	Mr Hawkins
7A	Mr Onafalujo	7D	Miss Chunda
7T	Miss Cox	7S	Mr Hewitt

Assembly Schedule:

Our assemblies here at Great Academy Ashton are tailored to highlight key events throughout the year (e.g. Remembrance Day) in addition to delivering some of the fundamental parts of our personal values curriculum that are not delivered within the classroom (e.g. gender identity and British Values).

Please see below the assembly timetable below for the final weeks in Year 7:

- ✓ Week Commencing 3rd June – Eid Faith Champions
- ✓ Week Commencing 10th June – Sports Week
- ✓ Week Commencing 17th June – MUFC Opportunities
- ✓ Week Commencing 24th June – Literacy, Books and Learning
- ✓ Week Commencing 1st July – Moving On
- ✓ Week Commencing 8th July – Staying Safe Over Summer
- ✓ Week Commencing 15th July – Celebration Assembly

I am very proud to say that the students within Year 7 have taken on board the GAA GREAT Values of Genuine, Respect, Excellence, Achieve and Together and I observe them continually using them every day around the academy. One of the five GREAT values is Excellence, and I have been focusing on this value with the year group. Excellence for our students means consistently being the best version of themselves. Excellence for your child at GAA means the following: ·

- Being on time to school and lessons each day.
- Having attendance above 96%. School is preparation for that expectation.
- Wearing their uniform correctly – red striped tie, shirt tucked in, plain black school shoes.
- GAA branded skirt for the girls worn at an appropriate length.
- Bringing the correct equipment to school - a minimum of 2 pens to include a spare in case one runs out, a pencil and ruler and a rubber.

If students develop excellence through consistency, they will be successful. Subsequently, this will mean they have a bright future celebrating their achievements from school. In school this is recognised each term in a celebratory assembly, and this also includes £400 worth of prizes. Achievement through excellence is a feeling money cannot buy, which boosts self-esteem and self-worth. I trust that you will continue to support your child and staff at GAA with this.

To conclude, I would once again like to take this opportunity to thank you for your support over the past academic year. Both Mrs Broadbent and I are still fully committed in saying that we truly believe that this year group has the potential to be the best that we have ever seen here at Great Academy Ashton. We believe we could be the best year group in terms of attainment, progress and attendance. With your continued support in this final half term, I am sure that things will only get better and give the year group some 'positive momentum' heading into Year 8.

As always, if you require our support with anything to do with your child in or out of the classroom, please do not hesitate to contact a member of the year team (our email is redpastoral@gaa.org.uk) who will be more than happy to support you and your child in every way possible.

Yours faithfully,

Mrs P Farrell

Head of Year