



The Connector

31 March 2017

MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL



Dear Parents and Carers,

As we come to the end of another successful term, I just wanted to take this opportunity to thank you for all your support and communication over the Spring. Your input is always valued and really helps us to ensure students are supported and happy during their time here.

This week, we have had one of our most popular Year 11 assemblies; 'Proud' for Year 11. This is a pivotal moment on the Year 11 calendar, when we take a moment to reflect on what they have achieved so far and to remind them of the importance of the coming term. This event is made so special by the input of parents, carers and staff and – as always – I am very appreciative of your input.

Please read below about our very special visit to the Lord Mayor's office. As expected, our students were an absolute credit to this community and the Lord Mayor commented, not only on their incredibly high standards of presentation, but also on their high aspirations.

Wishing you all a lovely Easter break. Please ensure your child returns in perfect uniform, with all their equipment on Wednesday 19th April.

Regards

Deborah Warwick

Principal

VISIT TO THE LORD MAYOR'S OFFICE

On Wednesday 29th March five students travelled to the Mansion House in London to meet the Lord Mayor, Andrew Parmley. The students were given a guided tour of the Mansion House which gave an insight into the workings of the Lord Mayor's Office and the impact that work has on world trade. The visit was arranged by the Meller Educational Trust and students from other academies in the Trust also attended.



YEAR 10 NEWS

All students in Year 10 should now be using their personal log in detail to read about and select their 6 placements for work experience. Please see below for the guide to using the system.

(<http://hcc.learnaboutwork.net/index.asp>) We would encourage all students to carefully read the Job Descriptions and details about each role before making their choices.

There are over 208 placements available and students should choose a total of six placements to apply for. I would encourage them to only choose 6 placements that they would like to complete. After the Easter break Mrs Hoggarth who is leading the next phase of the work experience process will be available for students to contact during break and lunch each Tuesday.

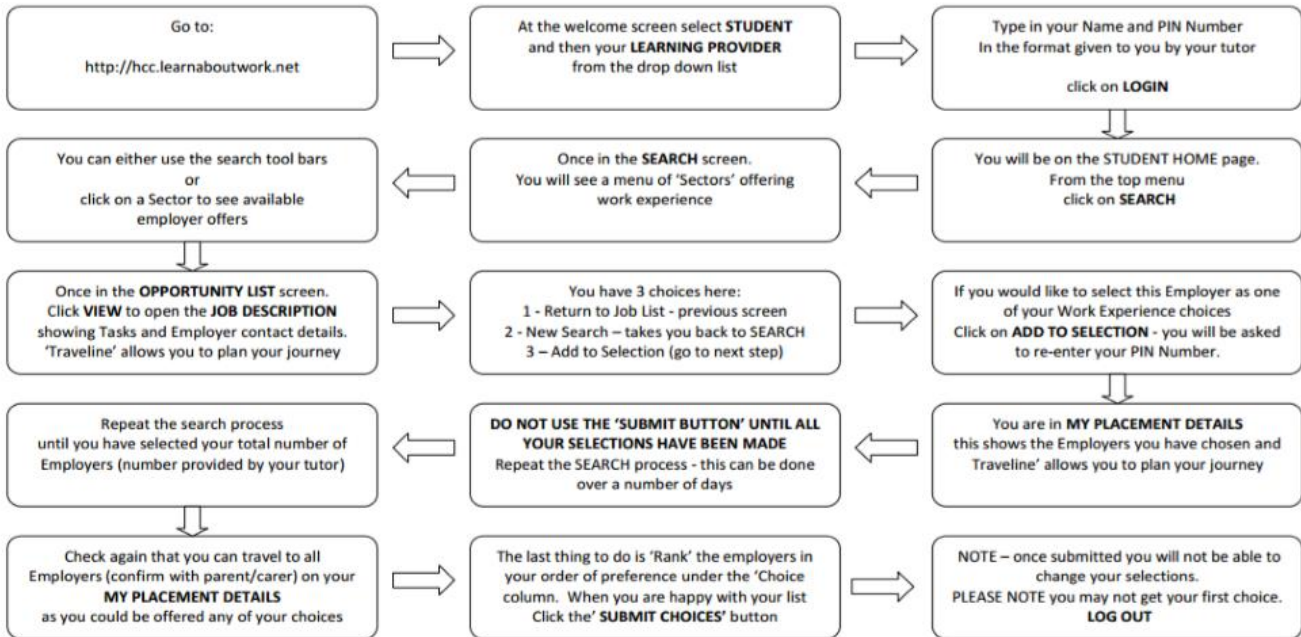
The deadline for private placements forms to be returned to the Academy was Friday 24th March 2017. Any forms received after this date may not result in placements being available.

If you have any questions or would like further information then please contact Mrs Hoggarth s.hoggarth@franciscombeacademy.org.uk or Mr Nelson r.nelson@franciscombeacademy.org.uk



Work Experience Link2 + Student 'Quick Guide'

Before you start make sure you have your PIN Number (given you your by your tutor) and know where you can travel to for your Work Experience Placement. Know how many Employers you can select (your learning provider will have given you this information). You will be informed which Employer you have been allocated at a later date by your learning provider.



March 2016

Youth Connexions

G.C.S.E. Pod



Year 11 students are continuing to make good use of the G.C.S.E. pod revision site. Janeni Jayakumar, Callum Fry-

Hall and Aneta Stoyanova are the top three students in year 11 and collectively they have watched 1263 streams on G.C.S.E. pod. This is a wonderful achievement. Biology, History and Maths are the most popular pods currently and it is great to see that more and more students are accessing the wonderful resource. If your child is in year 11 please encourage them to use G.C.S.E. Pod as it will support them in revising for the forthcoming exams. Studies have shown that if students access the pods on a regular basis they will achieve better grades in their exams.

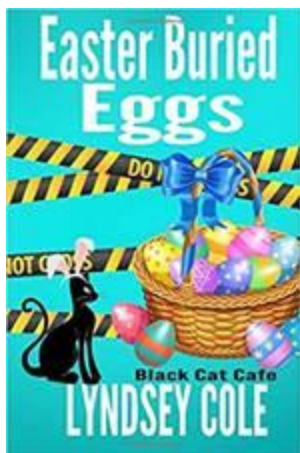


NON-UNIFORM DAY RAISES MONEY FOR GLOBAL VISION INTERNATIONAL



Nicky Williams, Ex-Principal of Francis Combe Academy, visited the Academy on Friday 31st March. Students were invited to wear non-uniform in exchange for a donation. The staff and students raised in the region of £850.

DROP EVERYTHING AND READ (DEAR)



DEAR will take place during P2 after the Easter break. I hope you all have a happy and restful Easter. The recommendations for holidays are as follows:

For year 7 is **Easter Buried Eggs** by Lyndsey Cole. *The smell of burnt cake is not a good omen for Annie when she arrives at the Black Cat Cafe. But little does she know that her Aunt Leona's cooking disaster is only the first of many problems she'll be served in a big basket of cracked Easter eggs. Annie quickly learns that being in charge at the Black Cat Café isn't all chocolate-covered strawberries and carrot cakes.*



For year 8 my recommendation is **You Don't Know Me** by Sophia Bennett.

What happens if you betray your best friend on TV in front of millions? The whole world lines up to judge you. Best friends in a band, singing together. Right up to the finals of Killer Act when the judges tell them one of them must go. Suddenly their friendship is put to the ultimate test.

SUMMER TERM ACADEMY DATES

Week	Date	Event
29	Wednesday 19 th April	Start of Summer Term – 8.25am
30	Wednesday 26 th April	Year 8 Parents Evening
33	Wednesday 17 th May	Parent Partners Meeting

principal@franciscombeacademy.org.uk

Francis Combe Academy Horseshoe Lane, Watford Garston WD25 7HW
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29th March 2017

Dear Parents and Carers

I am writing to you as we approach the end of another term. We have had a very exciting and rewarding Term; as always I am very proud of the work and efforts of the staff and students as we look forward to summer.

This letter provides you with some essential information regarding the end of this term and the start of next term.

A few reminders about events at the end of term

- **KS3 Projects deadline 29th March 2017**

It seems just yesterday we launched the KS3 projects. The deadline for submission of this is Wednesday 29th March. Please can all parents/carers ensure their child brings their project in on this day.

- On Friday 31st March, the Academy closes at 12.15pm as it is our final day of term. This is a non-uniform day. Students who receive a free school meal should again use their entitlement at break time. There will be a staggered end of term as follows:

- Key Stage 3 students (Years 7, 8 and 9) will leave at 12.15pm
- Key Stage 4 students (Years 10 and 11) will leave at 12.00pm

Students wishing to take part in the non-uniform event and not wear school uniform on this day must bring in £1. We are raising money for Global Vision; more details regarding this amazing charity can be found in the Connector.

Start of the Summer Term

The first day of term for students is Wednesday 19th April. Students should arrive at the usual time of 8.25am. Please ensure that your son/daughter returns to the Academy in full Academy uniform and with all their equipment. This Easter break is a long one and therefore we look forward to welcoming the students back fully refreshed and ready to work hard during the Summer term.

Parent Connector

Could I please remind parents and carers to read our "Parent Connector" which we upload to the website each Friday and publish via the App. It is a very important tool to ensure you are aware of important instructions and events happening at the Academy plus all the relevant dates. Please look out for the text telling you that the Connector is available.

Equipment and Uniform

Please ensure that your child returns to the Academy after the Easter break with the correct uniform. It is very important that every child starts the new term on a positive note. One of the ways in which parents/carers can support their child in doing this is by ensuring that their uniform meets our expectations. Parent/Carers can find information regarding the Academy uniform suppliers on the website.

Parents/Carers should note that any student returning after Easter without the correct uniform will be sent home so that the issue can be rectified. There will be no allowances given for any unacceptable items of uniform. It is worth noting that in the past we have had concerns with the following and so it is particularly important that parents understand our expectations:

- **Skirts:** These must be knee-length.
- **Shoes:** These must be formal, smart and black.

- **Piercings:** The only piercings allowed are one small earring in each earlobe. Students will be asked to remove any other piercings and will not be allowed in the Academy until they comply with this expectation. Please note that if they get a piercing done over the holidays they may be advised not to take it out until after six weeks. This will **not** be a sufficient reason as to why students must keep their piercing in.
- **Extreme haircuts:** Students will be isolated until the issue has been rectified.
- **Bags:** The Academy bag is a part of the uniform. Please ensure that your child uses the Academy rucksack, sport, messenger bag or eco bag for books and general equipment.
- **Blouses for girls:** Girls do not wear a tie, therefore, they must wear a blouse, not a shirt. Please read the guidance on this carefully, as last year some parents had to be asked to replace their freshly-purchased shirts right at the start of the year.

Please would all parents ensure their child has all the required equipment. We have high expectations of our students' learning and they need the tools to be successful. There are still some students who have not got a pencil case. The list of required/compulsory equipment items is given below:

Pencil case containing:

Calculator
Headphones
Organiser
Pens
Pencils
Eraser
Ruler
Sharpener

Students in Year 7 and 8 also need a reading book.

PE Kit

Miss Modeste and the Sport team have asked me once again to remind parents/carers that all students must wear full PE kit for Sport lessons and take responsibility for having this with them on the correct days. This includes students who are not participating in Sport for medical or other reasons as they are likely to be involved in the lesson in another way, for example keeping score. If your son/daughter has lost or grown out of items of PE kit, these can be purchased in the usual way through Mapac:

<http://www.mapac.com/education/parents/uniform/franciscombe>.

Francis Combe Academy APP

I would like to remind parents and carers how to access this vital portal into the news and happenings at the Academy. To download the App visit the Apple or Google Play stores and find Francis Combe Academy. To activate the APP please enter the username which is "FCA001" and the password which is 1979.


Year 11 Revision

As always, we are running a comprehensive range of revision and catch-up sessions for students in Year 11 over the Easter holidays. Full details to be found here:

<https://www.franciscombeacademy.org.uk/user/74/168508.pdf>

Finally, on behalf of staff, students and governors, I would like to take this opportunity to wish you a very happy Easter. We look forward to welcoming back students in April.

Yours sincerely



**D Warwick
Principal**

