



*GCSE Examinations start in **87** days*

Dear Parent/Guardian

Academy Conversion Update

The target date for Fearn's to convert to an academy with Star Academies is 1st April. We have listened to parent feedback and we are delighted to announce that the new school will be known as The Valley Leadership Academy. The uniform will be an important part of building a strong identity for the new academy. A new school blazer and tie will be introduced from September 2019. The Trust will cover the cost of blazer and tie for all existing Fearn's pupils (Years 8-11 in September 2019). Pupils will continue to wear the current sports kit until they require new items, when parents/guardians will be required to purchase items with the new logo. The school will continue to use the existing uniform retailers. Full details will be provided in the summer term. The school is looking forward to joining Star Academies and continuing on our improvement journey. Further updates will be shared as the conversion progresses.

Thank you to the majority of parents/guardians who ensure that their child comes to school smartly dressed in full, correct uniform. There are a small number of cases of inappropriate trousers and school shoes and I ask that you ensure that after half-term your child attends in the correct trousers and footwear. Please see the school website for guidance if you are unsure of the requirements. Thank you for your continued support.

As mentioned in last week's newsletter we will be starting a series of 'breakfast blast' sessions for Year 11 pupils after half-term. All pupils are expected to attend. A timetable has been issued to pupils this week and there is also a copy attached to this newsletter. The sessions will begin at 8am and pupils will be provided with breakfast.

Year 11 - Maths revision guides

Please note that we have revision guides and workbooks for sale in the maths department, the cost is £6 for the pair; which is **half price**. These are useful tools which will greatly help your child prepare for their forthcoming GCSE examinations.

Yesterday was the Rossendale Primary School Dance Competition which took place at Burnley Mechanics Theatre. This was organised by Rossendale's School Games Organiser, Mr Nathan Bibby as part of the Rossendale School Sports Partnership, this year's event was their biggest dance event to date. There were 13 local primary schools taking part, bringing over 300 pupils. They competed in front of a sell-out crowd of 440 people. There were some special judges on the panel including Emma Matthews; who has recently starred in David Walliams' 'Gangsta Granny' on the West End and Sammy Winward; who is best known for her role as Katie Sugden in Emmerdale. Brandon Mayor and Katie Race put their passion to good use and filmed the event and will create a DVD for parents to purchase. Shelley Newell, Delta Eaton, Lizzie Mawson, Amy Evans, Jordan Gatenby and Leon Yilmaz helped throughout the show performing roles such as 'runners' where they brought acts onto the stage in the correct order and ensured the night ran smoothly, as well as helping the judges with the scoring. The event was a fantastic opportunity for all of our pupils to gain experience in events management and an insight into what goes on behind the scenes in a theatre.



A reminder to all parents of pupils going on the French trip in April, that there will be a meeting on Wednesday 27th February at 5pm. If you are unable to attend, then please let Mrs Haworth know via your child and she will email the information to you.



Congratulations to our wonderful Year 7s!! They have been the first Year group to smash the target of 50,000 smilies (50,133 by Wednesday morning this week). This is a super effort and they should all feel very pleased with themselves. As a result of this achievement they were all given the afternoon off timetable yesterday to watch a film and enjoy some sweet treats. Well done!!



Please find attached to this newsletter the spring edition of the 'We Are Reading' newsletter. It is packed full of reports of literacy activities which have been taking place throughout the Lancashire borough recently, including Tom Palmer's visit here earlier this term.

Please also find attached a letter from David Graham (Head of Inclusion) to parents and carers of children with SEND in school. So far, more than 1,000 people have contributed to the Personal Outcomes Evaluation Tool (POET) survey which is part of the ongoing national pilot to help local areas understand the impact of the SEND reforms.

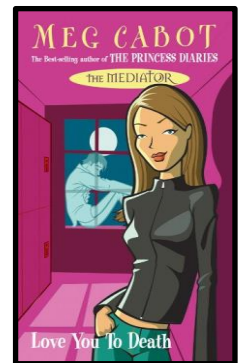


Bert the Bookworm Recommends...

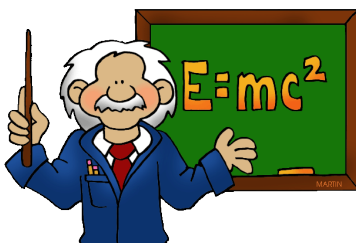
The Mediator by Meg Cabot

This book is about Susannah Simon (the sassiest ghost-hunter ever!), she can see ghosts, talk to ghosts and if necessary kick some ghost butt! I really liked this book because it has a lot of sarcasm and it is in the first person and it is Susannah who is talking in most of it. She has three step-brothers who don't know she is a mediator. This is a really good book and I would recommend it.

Evie Westwell – 7E



Numeracy Question



The answer to last week's numeracy question is 82.

This week's numeracy question is: To help pupils remember the school's four digit security code the history teacher said it was the year of the death of Sir Francis Drake. The maths teacher said it was easy to remember because it was the 56th triangle number. What was the door code?

I wish you all a very enjoyable and restful half-term break.

Mrs H Stead
Headteacher