



17 September 2015

Dear Parent(s)/Carer(s)

On behalf of the staff at Nottingham Free School, we are happy to welcome you to the 2015-16 school year! It has been a successful start already and all students have settled really well. We have been impressed with how the Year 7 students have adapted swiftly to the demands of secondary school life and how the Year 8's have welcomed the new cohort and taken them underneath their wing.

We are looking forward to a productive partnership with you to ensure our students can achieve their highest potential. We recognise that in order to be successful in school, our students need support from both the home and school. We know a strong partnership with you will make a great difference in your child's education. As partners, we share the responsibility for our children's success and want you to know that we will do our very best to carry out our responsibilities.

With the Nottingham Free School expanding year on year, it is inevitable that changes will take place in order to continue with the 'work hard be kind' ethos and develop a focused and aspirational environment. Therefore, we wanted to inform you of a couple of changes for this academic year which we hope will encourage students to be the best that they can be. Firstly, we have introduced a house system which will support the year structure. There are four houses into which students have already been placed. The four houses consist of 7.1 and 8.1, 7.2 and 8.2, 7.3 and 8.3 and 7.4 and 8.4. Students are currently voting on what to call their house and we will publish the results of the vote on the school website including new House Captains and Vice-Captains. Staff and students are extremely excited about this new addition and students are already working hard for their house by trying to earn as many reward discs as possible so that their house wins the first competition.

There is a new addition to the detention structure this year which now includes a Saturday detention. Students placed in this detention have seriously breached the school's behaviour policy and will be expected to attend this sanction. Parents will be notified in advance of this sanction and will be responsible for ensuring their son/daughter attends. Failure to attend this detention will result in a further sanction and an alternative date arranged for this Saturday detention.

We also request that you guide and support your child's learning by ensuring that he/she:

- 1) Attends school daily and arrives on time, ready for the day's learning with all necessary equipment
- 2) Completes all homework assignments given by teachers

- 3) Reads daily to develop a love for reading and to improve literacy skills
- 4) Shares school experiences with you so that you are aware of his/her school life
- 5) Informs you if he/she needs additional support in any area or subject
- 6) Knows that you expect him/her to succeed in school and go on to further learning or training.

As part of the traffic calming measures along Haydn Road, a new cycle lane has been placed outside the school. We have had a series of complaints from cyclists and we must stress that parents should not be stopping in the cycle lane to drop off or collect their children. For the safety of students and cyclists, please would you use the parking laybys which are on both sides of the street and any areas where there is no cycle lane.

As well, a reminder that it is individual school photos this Friday 18<sup>th</sup> September.

We have been overwhelmed by the support that Nottingham Free School has received so far from parents and we very much look forward to hearing feedback throughout the academic year.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be the initials 'JD' followed by a long, sweeping horizontal stroke.

Mrs Brown  
Head of School

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'K Gray' in a cursive style.

Mrs Gray  
Assistant Head of School