



## Looe Community Academy

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Acting Headteacher: Mr S Yalden BSc (Hons)

Our Ref: SYA/HWI

5 September 2018

Dear Parent/Carer

### **2018-2019 Academic Year**

I hope that you have had a lovely summer. We are looking forward to the start of term and working with you to support your child through this next academic year.

As you may have seen in the press I was delighted that all of the hard work by our Year 10 and Year 11 students and the tireless support of the academy staff has been rewarded with some extremely pleasing exam results. The academy has achieved improved results across a range of measures including rises in the percentage of students achieving both standard passes (grade 4 and above) and strong passes (grade 5 and above) in both English and Maths. Over 40% of the students achieved the top grade of 7 or higher in at least one subject area which is a fantastic performance with some students achieving 6 such grades. It is so pleasing that the overall Progress 8 score is highly likely to remain positive which shows that students of whatever ability will make progress at our academy.

There are a number of changes for this academic year as we seek to build on the strong academic success the academy has enjoyed this summer.

Firstly I am pleased to share that Miss Kelly Wood has been appointed to the Senior Leadership Team in the role of Senior Leader to work with myself and our acting Deputy Headteacher Mrs Kate Jackman in moving the academy forward. I know that she is looking forward to working with you all in this new role.

Secondly we have reviewed the Behaviour Policy of the academy and made some changes for this academic year taking into account feedback from all parties. Positive choices will be rewarded through the use of House Points which will be redeemable towards rewards offered within the academy and also will be rewarded by certificates and through pin badges. Teachers will explain to their students how they might achieve House Points such as by completing a piece of homework to a high standard.

Those of you familiar with the previous policy will be aware of the 'S' system of sanctions but this has now been replaced with a 'C' or consequence system as a reminder that for poor choices there are consequences and to distinguish it from the previous system. The policy documents can be found in the Student Planner and on the academy website under the 'For Parents/Carers' menu. I have included a copy for your convenience. Students have had an assembly explaining the changes to them and the opportunity to discuss them with their tutors.



If you would like to work more closely with us at the academy we currently have two vacancies for Parent Governors within our Local Governing Committee. If this is something you would be interested in please contact the academy using the head@looe.cornwall.sch.uk email address and I would be happy to discuss the role and any questions you may have.

Finally I would like to mention that during the course of this academic year we will be having a particular focus on attendance. Good attendance is essential for a child to make progress in their education. Attendance below 96% is shown to impact on a child's learning.

At the academy, we recognise that there are occasions when it is appropriate to authorise an absence, such as when a student is genuinely too ill to attend school, has a medical appointment that cannot be taken outside of school hours or a request for leave has been agreed in exceptional circumstances. However, the Government does not support parents/carers taking children out of school unless the school agrees this is appropriate under 'exceptional circumstances'. Any request for leave should be made in writing to myself.

If you decide to still take your child out of school, without permission, you will be committing an offence under the Education Act 1996. We may refer the matter to Cornwall Council who may decide to take legal action against you. A penalty notice can be issued under Section 444A and 444B of the Education Act 1996. This carries a fine of £60 if paid within 21 days or £120 if paid after this but within 28 days. Failure to pay the penalty notice may result in Court action. Persistent absences not authorised by the school may result in a prosecution in the Magistrates' Court, leading to fines up to £2,500 and/or custodial sentences. The Council may also apply for the costs incurred in taking the matter to Court. You are welcome to contact the academy to discuss any concerns you may have regarding this or if you feel you would like advice or support in helping your child attend more regularly. The academy is committed to maximising the education of all its students and aims to work with parents and carers to ensure this can be achieved.

The academy produces an end of term newsletter together with a weekly bulletin which can be found on our website. Both contain information such as updates, information and the academy diary which hopefully you will find helpful.

We hope that your child settles in well to the new academic year but should you have any concerns please do not hesitate to contact us.

Yours sincerely



**Mr Scott Yalden**  
**Acting Headteacher**

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