

## Principal's Review 2017/2018

Staff, students and parents can look back at 2017/18 with a great deal of pride. Tonight's awards evening is a celebration of the many achievements our students have made over the last twelve months. The students receiving awards tonight are superb ambassadors for our academy and are deservedly being recognised for their effort, enthusiasm and commitment.

This August, students in Year 13 and Year 11 celebrated superb exam results. Year 13 achieved excellent results with 100% pass rate and over half the grades being awarded A\*-B. There was much to celebrate on A level results day with so many students being successful in reaching their first choice destination.

GCSE results day the follow week was another very positive day for our students. Our Year 11 students had the additional pressure of sitting the newly reformed GCSEs which were graded 9-1 rather than A\*-G. They responded incredibly well, with 77% of our students achieving the new threshold of grade 4 and above in both mathematics and English. Like the A\* at A level, grade 9 is very hard to achieve and is awarded to around 3% of students in the country. We are delighted that in this first year, there were 74 grade 9s awarded to students from the academy. 27% of grades were awarded at grade 7, 8 or 9.

At Macmillan Academy we pride ourselves on providing a whole education. While we seek to create a learning culture that allows students to achieve these excellent results, we try to ensure they can develop personal qualities through access to a wide range of extra-curricular opportunities. Our programme of enrichments and educational visits is very strong and there have been many highlights over the last twelve months.

Our extensive arts curriculum is a special feature of the school. There were several highlights in the last year: the annual production of 'We Will Rock You', our increasing involvement with the Royal Shakespeare Company through the Next Generation initiative, impressive Christmas and spring and music concerts and a summer art exhibition showcasing the incredibly talented work of our art students. This year's Remembrance broadcast saw a collaboration between the academy and Archibald Primary School through a piece of WWI drama and also a medals project. The service was given added significance by the presence of the Archbishop of York, Dr John Sentamu, who attended the service and discussed his work in the House of Lords with Post 16 students.

Many of our students benefit significantly from the opportunities that school sport offers them. A highlight this year was the Madrid sports tour which saw 154 students and 16 staff visit Madrid during the Easter holiday as part of the largest sports tour the academy has ever organised. The tour included two training sessions; one football at Real Madrid training complex and a hockey session at an elite hockey club. In addition there were two games v Spanish opposition, a themed party, a tour of the famous Bernabeu Stadium and a whistle stop tour of Madrid city centre. Finally, students had the incredible experience of attending the Atletico Madrid v Sporting Lisbon game which was the quarter final of the Europa league.

Many notable team successes included the academy becoming national champions in girls Futsal, County Champions in Year 7 and Year 9 boys football and Middlesbrough Schools Athletics Champions for Year 7, 8 and 9 boys, and Year 8 girls.

We think the Duke of Edinburgh awards scheme provides our students with the skills that employers want and this programme has reached even more students. This year there are a record number of students working towards the Duke of Edinburgh gold award. A major aspect of the Duke of Edinburgh programme is volunteering and there are other really good examples of students volunteering, showing great commitment towards the National Citizen Service, while our Eco Squad were successful in achieving Green Flag status for the academy.

Educational visits always seem to provide memorable moments for our students and this year visits to Spain (Madrid), France (Saint Cyr in the Loire Valley), Auschwitz, Catterick Garrison and a very popular Post 16 New York visit provided those memorable moments.

While inevitably, there is a great focus for Year 11 and Year 13 on ever more challenging exams, there is certainly some relief from that pressure through the fashion show, prom and leavers' events.

In looking back over the year, I hope you agree that there is an astonishing breadth of activity that our students can benefit from. This can only be possible through the dedication shown by our staff and I wanted to take this opportunity to thank them. I hope you all enjoy this evening.

Mr P Latham  
September 2018