

8 June 2018

Dear Parents and Carers

Last year, shortly after I joined Park Lane Academy, the students were offered opportunities to attend rewards trips, as part of the school's rewards policy. The feedback we received was that the students enjoyed the visits, however, because they were taken in the final month of school, when the large majority of schools run their rewards visits, the queues at the theme parks were so long that the students did not feel they had had sufficient opportunity to get on the rides they wanted and therefore, did not feel the visits were value for money.

As a result of this and to avoid disruption to the GCSE revision sessions by taking staff out of school from May onwards, we will be running the rewards visits for all year groups in the first half term of the new academic year. This will enable all the students to have a well-deserved reward and gain value for money and more enjoyment at the various attractions we will be visiting. We will write to you again nearer the time with details of where and when the trips will take place so that you can purchase one via the school's online payment system.

From September, there will be a whole new host of enrichment opportunities for your child to become involved in, including learning British sign language, joining a cadet group, embarking on a new Duke of Edinburgh Award cohort and learning first aid, including CPR and how to use a defibrillator. This is all part of our 'Park Lane Pledge' to ensure your children leave us with some vital skills for life.

We would also like to take this opportunity to share some of the comments Ofsted made, following their inspection in April this year:

'The vast majority of pupils follow the school's uniform expectations. Pupils look smart in their uniforms. Pupils were polite and courteous to inspectors. They are confident to share and express their views'.

'Under the leadership of the new principal, with the support from South Pennine Academies, leaders are taking prompt action to more urgently address the areas for improvement. The new principal and the trust are taking decisive action to make the difference. As a result, behaviour is beginning to improve and more effective systems are in place to evaluate the impact of the school's work on improving pupils' progress'.

'The new principal has a clear vision for improving the school. The staff spoken to by inspectors are buoyant in their attitudes. They are fully behind the principal's vision for improvement'. 'Green shoots of improvement are evident'.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your on-going support.

Yours faithfully

Lisa Corrigan

Principal

Park Lane Academy