

Our Ref: ABR/KJ

30 August 2016



Fox Street  
Derby DE1 2LF

Telephone 01332 204040  
Fax 01332 371867  
Email [post@landau-forte.org.uk](mailto:post@landau-forte.org.uk)  
Website [www.landau-forte.org.uk](http://www.landau-forte.org.uk)

Dear parent/carer,

I wanted to share with you some of the highlights from the recent GCSE and A level examination results. At key stage 5 we are pleased to report a significant increase in the number of students gaining the highest grades of A\*-A in both academic and vocational qualifications, 40% of entries achieved the top grades, a significant increase from 50% the previous year and 58% of entries were awarded A\*-B grades, again a significant increase from 50% in 2015. We wish the class of 2016 good luck as they start their higher education courses at universities such as University College London, University of Bath, University of Leicester, Kings College London, Newcastle University, Derby University, Nottingham Trent University, University of Warwick, St Andrews University and the University of York.

The College's GCSE results were equally as pleasing, with 69% of students achieving 5 A\*-C grades, including English and mathematics. The College's GCSE English results were the best in Derby City. We are delighted to welcome back a significant number of our Year 11 students into Year 12. My thanks must go to all the students, staff and parents and carers. This improvement in examination results across Key Stage 4 and 5 was most certainly a team effort!

Whilst we celebrate the results of the class of 2016 I am conscious that there is still much to do to ensure the College maintains its outstanding grading and is recognised as the flagship school in Derby City. As we move into the new academic year I thank you for your support and ask that this is maintained as we continue to move forward.

The start to the new academic year has been extremely positive. All students are looking smart and are prepared for learning with relevant equipment. Punctuality has increased significantly and I would ask that students continue to arrive on site at 8.20am each morning.

I have included a copy of the term dates for this academic year for your reference. A copy of the term dates for the academic year 2017 – 2018 is available on the College's website.

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Derby  
DE1 2LF

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I have also included an Enrichment Timetable detailing after College activities. This has been updated after consultation with students in the summer term. There are some exciting new activities such as Cooking Club and Modern Foreign Languages' Culture Club. Please encourage your son or daughter to attend activities that interest them. If you require further information, please do not hesitate to ask your son or daughter to approach a member of staff or contact your son or daughter's Personal Tutor.

Below are some key dates for your diary. You will notice the introduction of a more 'traditional' Parents' Evening, alongside the Consultations for Years 8 to 13. This will enable parents and carers to have subject specific conversations with Learning Tutors, ensuring parents and carers feel equipped with the relevant knowledge to support their son or daughter in achieving the best possible outcomes.

**Key dates:**

**7 November 2016 – Year 9 assessments**

**November 2016 – Progress Reports to parents**

**14 December 2016 – Year 9 Parents Evening (an opportunity to meet Learning Tutors)**

**3 to 6 January 2017 – Students complete pathway process (make GCSE option choices)**

**February 2017 – Progress Report to parents**

**19 to 30 June 2017 – Consultations with Personal Tutors**

**June 2017 – Progress Report to parents**

Yours faithfully

Ms A Brannick  
Principal