

22 September 2022

Dear Parents/Carers,

Welcome back to school following the summer break. I want to apologise that it has taken much longer than usual to write to parents and carers at the start of the academic year. Unfortunately, I have had to have some time away from the academy at the start of the academic year following a number of close family bereavements, including both my parents since we broke for summer. Some of the information below would have been shared a little earlier had circumstances not been as they have.

I am pleased to report that students performed well in key stage 2 tests and GCSE examinations in summer, where we were very pleased with the performance of children.

Open Evening

Our annual open evening takes place on Wednesday, 5th October from 4:30pm for children looking for secondary school places in 2023. To prepare the academy, we will close early to students in years 5 to 11 on these days. A letter has been sent with these arrangements. We will be holding a similar event for parents looking for nursery, reception or primary places after half term.

Ofsted report

The recent Ofsted inspection report is included with this letter. We are naturally disappointed with the overall change of grade but do acknowledge and accept the areas for improvement that have been identified. This was our first inspection since COVID and also the first under a very different inspection framework. We will write to parents with an action plan showing our intentions to address the points identified before the end of the calendar year.

Staffing

I am delighted to welcome a number of new colleagues to the academy this academic year, many of whom parents/carers will already have met. Given the timing of this letter I won't outline all of the changes but there will be opportunities to meet new teachers at a number of points during the year.

Equipment

Please can I remind parents that students in year 7 to 11 should bring with them the necessary equipment for school (including pens, pencil, ruler and eraser as a minimum expectation). Students should also bring school bags, knowledge organisers and reflection logs daily. Stationery is provided in years N to 6 but children need to bring their reading books in their book bags every day.

PAUSE and CARE

At the start of each year, I like to remind parents/carers about the importance of PAUSE and CARE as our fundamental ways of working and ask for your support with these throughout the year.

P is for Punctuality. School starts at 8:50am and students should be in school ready to learn by that point. Punctuality is a life skill and incredibly important. Students in Y7 and above will receive a same day detention if they are late to school in the morning.

A is for Attendance. The last two years have impacted hard on attendance and I urge everyone to try their best to be in school every day. The minimum expectation for students attendance should be 96%

U is for Uniform. We shared uniform information before summer and ask that you refer to the guidance on the website. We do have a uniform bank in school should parents need support. If you want to discuss any aspect of uniform please speak to the pastoral team in school.

S is for Safe & Sensible Behaviour. We expect all students to behave in a safe and sensible manner on the way to school, whilst at school and on the way home from school. We urge responsible behaviour in the community at all times.

E is for Effort. We ask all children to put maximum effort into their studies at all times.

CARE stands for Consideration And Respect for Everyone and simply suggests that we act with consideration and respect for each other at all times.

Can I thank parents in advance for your support with reinforcing these at all times.

I look forward to meeting you in person at one of the many school events over the academic year, commencing with our Open Evening on the 5th October.

Yours sincerely,



Mr. S. Cooke
Headteacher