

The Harefield Academy

Achievement through Active Learning

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Headteacher: Tash Moriarty BA PGCE



9th February 2018

Dear Parents/Carers,

As we approach the first half term break of 2018, I would like to extend my thanks to our parents/carers, friends and families for their support in the face of the sad and tragic circumstances that affected our community recently. The far reaching publicity and media coverage surrounding the untimely deaths of three former students of The Harefield Academy will no doubt have placed additional stress upon all those affected. Our thoughts remain very much with the immediate families at such a traumatic time and we continue to support our students and staff as they come to terms with the loss of these young lives. Whilst ensuring that our day to day business has continued in the classroom and at social times, there have been deep layers of support in the background. We have been well supported by schools and services across the Borough with the provision of extra counsellors enabling us to manage the emotional needs of large numbers of students.

I am aware that numerous events have taken place beyond the school community as a mark of respect and in memory of Harry, George and Josh. As a school, we plan to raise funds to commemorate their lives with a permanent memorial bearing names plaques, within the school grounds, as a lasting and enduring memory of the three boys and their time at The Harefield Academy. We want our memorial to capture a common interest of each of the boys whilst also serving as a focal point of interest and engagement to our current and future students. We have sought the views of our students and will be sharing their ideas with the families of Harry, Josh and George to ensure they are happy that our plans reflect a fitting memorial through which to honour their loved ones. In prioritising the feelings of each family and respecting their privacy at such a difficult time, we will await their input and support before proceeding with any fundraising plans, but will of course keep students, parents and carers in the loop as we do.

Staffing updates:

Shortly after half term, Mrs Ral, Mrs Malone and Mrs Sweeney will be taking maternity leave. We wish all three colleagues every success and happiness with their imminent arrivals and look forward to welcoming them back to The Academy in the not too distant future.

We welcome Mr Stein to The Harefield Academy staff. He joins us as the Student Manager for Year 8 during Mrs Sweeney's absence. For the purposes of continuity, Mrs Shepherd will remain the Student Manager for Year 8 on a Monday until the end of the summer term.

We congratulate Mrs Medcalf on her promotion to the position of Assistant Headteacher. Mrs Medcalf will oversee admissions, transition and punctuality within her remit whilst continuing to teach English and some Humanities.

We are delighted that Mrs Leonard will take over the role of Standards and Achievement Leader for Year 11 in Mrs Ral's absence.



Car Park Reminder

Please could I remind all parents/carers that when parking in our car park, the red hazard lines are out of bounds to facilitate emergency access. At no time should cars be parked in this area. Please also be mindful of students crossing the road at the entrance to the school and surrounding areas when pulling up to park. Please reinforce road safety messages with your sons/daughters at home, including use of the main school gate upon arrival rather than the car park gate where cars constantly enter and depart the school.

Extended Learning Opportunities

I am sure many of your sons/daughters have now sampled, if not exhausted, our extended learning opportunities on Saturdays and in the holidays. We are very fortunate to be able to offer such a broad provision of enrichment and intervention activities outside school time to enable students to catch up or get ahead in their learning. Please do check the schedule [HERE](#) and encourage attendance where possible. Students in Year 11 in particular are reminded to make effective use of all available support as they draw ever closer to their crucial GCSE exams.

We look forward to welcoming all students back to school on Monday 19th February.

Yours sincerely,

Tash Moriarty
Headteacher