

The Harefield Academy

Achievement through Active Learning

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Headteacher: Tash Moriarty BA PGCE



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Dear Parents/Carers,

Many thanks for your attendance at the Year 11 Parents' Evening and for taking the time to fill in the questionnaire. It was really positive to see that 85% of families attended and this will really support students moving forward. We really value your input and support of the school by letting us know how we are progressing and we use this feedback to support us in making further changes to improve the provision for students.

The feedback we received was really positive with parents/carers commenting that we are particularly strong in the areas below:

- The school keeps my child safe.
- The school makes sure my child is well prepared for the future.
- The school takes account of my suggestions and concerns.
- The school is led and managed effectively.

Some parents were concerned about the progress that their child is making. We share these concerns where students are below target and want to ensure they are effectively supported in swiftly narrowing these attainment gaps. As such we have built in intervention sessions that are bespoke to every student and are encouraging attendance to at least three after school sessions a week as well as extended learning opportunities during the holidays and weekends. Intervention classes are planned to intensively target gaps in learning and to make impact on outcomes. Where students have been regularly attending catch up we have seen significant improvements in their results and as such would seek your support in ensuring the most effective use is made of the short period of time between now and the May/June exams. Year 11 students all met with a member of the Senior Leadership Team in November to support them with planning for the future and to raise any concerns about their progress.

The Year 11 Tutor team is comprised of Directors of Learning across The Academy. Mrs Leonard is working with Tutors to minimise any gaps in learning effectively at tutor time over the next 6 weeks, this should enable more targeted support for those students who need it and this should work on closing any gaps.

We are aware there has been a change in some teachers this term for Year 11. We have prioritised the Year 11 students to ensure that they have high quality teaching at this vital point in Year 11. We have recruited some very good staff to support the students at this time, should you have any concerns about your child's learning please do contact myself or Mrs Leonard.

In terms of supporting students in preparing for their future, 80% of students in Year 11 have met with our Careers Advisor since September and by February half term all students in Year 11 will have had a careers meeting, with some requiring follow up advice regarding post 16 pathways. We have a careers page on the website now which shows the range of planned advice and guidance available to students as well as some helpful links. The page can be found [here](#).

Lastly could I remind you all of the value of your support in working closely in partnership with the school. Students should maintain a 97% attendance figure. Students who fall below 95% attendance generally



perform at least half a grade below their peers in their GCSEs. Students whose attendance is below 90% perform significantly below this, so please ensure that your child attends school every day. To support students who may get a 30 minute detention, for Year 11 only, we have allowed them to not sit their detention in the detention room for half an hour, but instead attend intervention sessions for one hour that run on that day, please encourage students to take up this offer.

Please be reminded that students in Year 11 should be studying for at least 2 hours every night and that this is best supported by:

- Structured revision and homework planning.
- A quiet place to work at home (where this is not possible, students are encouraged to use the library).
- When studying, devices like phones should be put away to avoid distractions.
- Healthy eating and sleeping patterns.
- Parental monitoring of study time and completion of tasks.
- Communication with the school where there are concerns, you will find links to all teachers' email addresses on the school website.

Should you have any concerns about how your child is doing at The Academy please do contact me so that I can support you as quickly as possible.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs H Timmins
Deputy Headteacher