

# The Harefield Academy

*Achievement through Active Learning*

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Headteacher: Tash Moriarty BA PGCE



February 2019

Dear Parents/Carers,

Many thanks for your attendance at the Sixth Form Parents' Evening and for taking the time to fill in the questionnaire. It was really positive to see that 75% of families attended and this will really support students moving forward. We 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 and preparing for Higher Education.
- The school takes account of my suggestions and concerns.
- The school is led and managed effectively.

We have brought in the Mini Data Capture tracking to support students with their outcomes. This enables us to ensure that any under achieving students receive the appropriate support and intervention that may be required. With the introduction of regular Mini Data Captures this allows students to reflect on their progress and quickly address any areas of concern in consultation with subject teachers or the Senior Leadership Team to ensure the best outcomes for the students.

Data Captures are closely monitored and students are given the opportunity to discuss their outcomes with teachers and seek advice on next steps. Our latest Mini Data Capture took place week commencing 11<sup>th</sup> February.

Private Study is compulsory for all students and attendance at these sessions is recorded. Failure to attend is seen as unauthorised absence and will be reflected in attendance records. Institutions including universities and employers regularly ask for students' attendance records. Government guidelines stress that Post 16 students must be engaged in learning activities for a regulated amount of time within school. Students are expected to achieve 97% attendance and appointments should be kept to school holidays.

We are aware there has been a change in some teachers this term for a small number of students. We have prioritised Sixth Form students to ensure that they have high quality teaching at this vital point. 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 me by email at [cbrady@theharefieldacademy.org](mailto:cbrady@theharefieldacademy.org).

In terms of supporting students in preparing for their future, students in both Year 12 and Year 13 have the opportunity to meet our Careers Advisor and seek advice for post Sixth Form. These appointments can be made through myself or Mrs Williams.

Healthy eating and lifestyle are fundamental when students are studying and preparing for examinations. It's important that they get the right balance. If students would like further advice on healthy lifestyle we can arrange for them to speak to a member of staff and get some tips on getting the balance right. Some



parents commented that they would like to see more vegetarian food options. I can confirm that the Cucina menu offers a vegetarian option every day, however, the variety of meals we can have on offer are limited by the number of students we have. If students do have particular dietary requirements please do let us know and we will see if the catering team can accommodate this request.

Lastly could I remind you all of the value of your support in working closely in partnership with the school. Please be reminded that students in Post 16 education should be studying for at least 3 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).
- Good use of compulsory Private Study.
- 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.
- Parental communication with the school where there are concerns, you will find links to all teachers' email addresses on the school website. Avoid long hours of paid work which could interfere with their home studies and leave them feeling tired.

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 Carmel Brady  
Assistant Headteacher  
[cbrady@theharefieldacademy.org](mailto:cbrady@theharefieldacademy.org)