

The Harefield Academy

Achievement through Active Learning

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Headteacher: Tash Moriarty BA PGCE



March 2019

Dear Parents/Carers,

Thank you for your attendance at the Year 10 Parents' Evening and for taking the time to fill in the school questionnaire. We really value your input and support. We look carefully at these questionnaires to help us to refine the experience the students have in The Academy and to support us in making further changes to improve the provision for students.

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

- The school keeps my child safe.
- The school informs me about my child's progress.
- The school takes account of my suggestions and concerns.

Some parents are concerned about the progress that their child is making. We share these concerns in some cases where we too feel that students are not progressing as rapidly as we would like them to and want to ensure that all students are supported swiftly in narrowing attainment gaps. As such we have ensured that our reporting and assessment process is very robust. Departments are moderating results on assessments and sharing with the Senior Leadership Team the next step interventions for students who are currently underperforming.

We have this term unfortunately been hit by the national recruitment crisis within the teaching profession and we have been struggling since January to appoint an excellent English and Media teacher and this has had an impact on the delivery of some Year 10 lessons. While we continue our effort to recruit we have worked creatively to ensure that we do not adversely impact students any further. As such Mr Griffiths has been willing to oversee the Media department and we have ensured that from Monday 25th March all students who have been affected will only have one lesson of cover and two lessons of Media with a qualified teacher to ensure that the students are not adversely affected. We regret the loss of learning time for these students over the last two months and we will be closely monitoring their progress. Should we need to vary the curriculum for a few weeks in the summer term, to ensure that the students have not been disadvantaged, we will do so. I would like to reassure you that appointing a new member of staff is the highest priority for us, however, in the interim, we are also determined that the quality of teaching and learning for these students is of a high enough level to ensure the best outcomes for all students. We will be running a whole school mock examination timetable from 24th June to 5th July 2019 as practice for the real exams and to support students with revision techniques. This will also allow us to identify any weaknesses and tailor interventions in Year 11 to ensure that any underperformance is dealt with before the final mock examination season in December 2019.



A few parents were concerned about how we deal with behaviour. Since embedding the Ladder of Consequence in 2017, behaviour across The Academy has improved significantly. This is well borne out through behaviour and exclusion statistics as well as the feedback from students and numerous external visitors/inspectors. This is however, still a major focus for all staff at The Academy. This year we have appointed Mr Martin as Head of Year 10 to support the students as they move into Year 11. This means that Mrs Raper as Student Manager and Mr Martin can swiftly deal with any behavioural matters. Should you have any concerns you can contact them on kraper@theharefieldacademy.org and KMartin@theharefieldacademy.org.

We have a clear plan to help the students have a good quality education at The Harefield Academy and a major part of that is engagement with parents and carers. So please do get in touch if you have any concerns or suggestions.

Please also remember that our reason for focusing on attitudes to learning and homework in reports is because this is what will make the most significant impact on outcomes. Students working below an average attitude to learning score of 3 are highly unlikely to meet their targets and your support in addressing this is of huge importance.

Please be reminded that students in Year 10 should be studying for at least 1.5 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.
- Access to Classcharts to complete homework.

It is also really important that attendance stays above 97% as missing lessons has a detrimental effect on outcomes when students reach Year 11.

Thank you for your continued support.

Yours sincerely,

Helen Timmins
Deputy Headteacher