

# The Harefield Academy

*Achievement through Active Learning*

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Headteacher: Tash Hurtado BA PGCE



25<sup>th</sup> January 2021

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 positive to see so many parents engaging with our new online provision for the evening. 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:

- My child feels safe at this school
- The school has high expectations for my child
- The school informs me about my child's progress.

A small number of parents highlighted, 'the school supports my child's wider development' as an area for improvement. To support year 11 with their futures and development outside of the curriculum, we have been focused on transition to their next stage of education, as this was our priority for year 11 students. This has involved one to one career meetings for all students, a personalised career action plan, sixth form taster talks, student surveys, bespoke tutor time support, college and apprenticeship application workshops and pastoral support with applications to their chosen destinations. All year 11 students had a clear pathway identified and should feel supported in their next steps. The pastoral provision at the start of term was limited due to the need for staggered start / finish times and a compacted timetable, however the new timetable for this term includes dedicated pastoral time everyday where students' wider needs can be addressed daily. Hopefully, this will further support and address all students' wider needs.

To support all students and parents in accessing feedback, we continue to utilise ClassCharts to reward students for their efforts and attitudes to learning across all subjects. This is also utilised to identify where homework and or classwork is not completed to the expected levels and is a daily tool to receive instant feedback around your child's level of engagement with our online learning provision. All students will also receive regular feedback on each subject via Google Classroom, which can be accessed at any time. We also continue with our reporting cycle, which gives parents and students an indicator of current working grades and predicted grades. This formal report is issued three times a year. Teachers are also always of course accommodating to any queries around progress and you can contact them if there are subject specific enquires, these contacts can be found on the website or can be sent via the Head of Year 11 Mrs Gardner at [gemma.gardner@theharefieldacademy.org](mailto:gemma.gardner@theharefieldacademy.org).



I would like to remind you all of the value of your support in working closely in partnership with the school. Students should maintain a 97% attendance figure with accessing their online live lessons. It is important to reiterate that the students attend all live learning, everyday to maintain this high expectation of attendance. 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 all online lessons every day.

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.

We have been impressed with the resilience and determination displayed by year 11, their adaption to a new way of online learning has been rapid and successful, with some excellent feedback coming from both staff and students alike. To extend this support we have signed up with GCSE Pod to allow students to complete further learning activities alongside their Google Classroom provision. If your child needs any help accessing this, please let Mrs Gardner know [gemma.gardner@theharefieldacademy.org](mailto:gemma.gardner@theharefieldacademy.org). A reminder also to students that we are monitoring and awarding merits for those who are actively engaging with this as a revision and learning tool.

We would like to thank you for your support in adapting to the change in learning and we will of course keep you updated if there any changes to the current model of learning.

Should you have any concerns about how your child is doing at The Academy please do contact Mrs Gardner or myself so that we can support you as quickly as possible.

Yours sincerely,

**Mrs G Gardner**  
**Head of Year 10 and 11**