

The Harefield Academy

Achievement through Active Learning

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4th September 2020

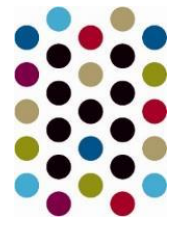
Dear Year 9 Parent/Carer,

It is with great excitement that we welcome Year 9 back to The Academy, for face to face learning and enrichment and I would like to introduce myself as the Head of Year for Year 9, working alongside Miss Booker as Student Manager. As a Year Team we have been preparing for supporting your child's return to school with a programme of induction that includes understanding our new 'COVID safe' systems, meeting form tutors and key pastoral staff, health and safety updates and preparing for the academic year ahead. Over the course of this academic year, it is our priority that Year 9 are working hard to ensure that lost learning time is recovered through effort and engagement within lessons.

Please may I use this opportunity to remind our families of the amended school day and 'COVID- Safe' measures that we have implemented at The Academy which you can find via this [link](#).

Whilst previous guidance before the Summer holiday discouraged use of face masks in schools, you will have noted that the Government advice has recently been updated. The optional use of face masks between lessons is now at the discretion of Headteachers and it remains the case that face masks **are not** compulsory at The Academy. This position will only change **if** a local lockdown situation arises. We will be allowing staff and students to wear face masks between lessons if this makes them more comfortable. There will be limitations on style/colours and we request that face coverings need to be either surgical style (disposal) or plain coloured - black, white, or grey - with no patterns, motifs, or writing. Academy staff will proactively reinforce good habits in the use of face coverings and we request that correct mask use is also reinforced at home - with an emphasis on not wearing the mask hanging below the nose or mouth and carefully removing masks using the ear straps whilst avoiding touching the face at all times. The need to wear face coverings when commuting on public transport remains and we request that if your child travels to school via public transport, that this mask is either disposed of using the PPE bins at the Academy entrance, or placed in a plastic bag and taken home for washing.

Your child's timetable includes a weekly, dedicated pastoral slot on Tuesdays from 1.30 to 2.15. We appreciate that students may be experiencing a range of feelings and/or anxieties as they transition back to full time education on site and these weekly pastoral slots have been designed to provide students with pastoral support and guidance on topics such as mental health and wellbeing, attitudes to learning, determination and coping with difficulties. These will be addressed either via year group assemblies or bespoke pastoral sessions within their tutor groups. As always students can speak to any member of the pastoral team if there are any issues surrounding school and anxiety over transition.



Finally, if you feel that there is information which you feel we should be aware of, particularly regarding any changes in family circumstances in recent months, please do not hesitate to make contact with myself or Miss Booker. As always, we very much look forward to working in close partnership with our families to ensure that each child has a positive, safe and purposeful academic year.

Yours sincerely,

K Martin

Mr K Martin
Head of Year 9