

The Harefield Academy

Achievement through Active Learning

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Headteacher: Tash Hurtado BA PGCE



28th June 2021

September 2021 Curriculum and School Day update

Dear Parents/Carers,

I would firstly like to take the opportunity to convey how proud we all are of the fantastic community spirit modelled by our students last week in a very busy week where we hosted both a wonderful Olympic event for our primary feeder schools and also welcomed Ofsted for a full inspection of The Academy. We have been anticipating this visit for some time, which has been delayed by almost one year due to the pandemic, but with all the uncertainty surrounding the scheduling of inspections, we certainly had not anticipated it clashing with our Olympic day! However, as always, our fantastic staff and students rose to the challenge and availed themselves to support with both busy events. I am sure it is reassuring to parents and carers to know that the perspectives of students weigh heavily in reviews of school provision, and we are therefore thrilled that our students are routinely keen to engage in dialogue and model exemplary manners and high levels of maturity. We will of course share the full inspection report with families as soon as it is available.

In the meantime, as we prepare for the start of the 2021-22 academic year, I would like to update you on a number of changes to the school day as we emerge from Covid restrictions. You will be aware that social distancing requirements resulted in temporary changes to the start and end time of the school day to allow for staggering of arrivals and departures to the school and split social times. From September we will revert to our usual start and finish time which will be common to all year groups, something we hope will be supportive to families, notably those with siblings across key stages.

Whilst our start and end times will be back to normal, we will however be moving from a one week to a 2-week timetable. The reason for this is to ensure we can increase the breadth of curriculum offering to our students. In addition to Covid restrictions impacting on the delivery of practical lessons in the last year and a half, it has been difficult to offer as wide a choice of art and technology subjects as we would like recently due to timetabling constraints. We have been able to resolve this by moving to a 2-week timetable to create the freedom to offer more subjects. As such am I delighted that our year 7 to 9 students will be able to experience all of the following within their offer from September:

- Art
- Music
- Drama/Performing Arts
- Food technology
- Product design/Design technology
- PE
- PSHE
- RE
- Computer science
- Maths/English/Science
- History/Geography/Modern Foreign Languages



Year 9 students will continue to also have a rotation of Key Stage 4 option subjects to trial during the year, about which they will receive separate communication.

In order to facilitate this strengthened curriculum, we are pleased to welcome a number of new teachers to The Harefield Academy. Covid has unfortunately impacted on the stability of staffing this year, as indeed it has in many schools nationally. We have had strong consistency in our teaching team for a number of years but have recently been required to use a small number of supply teachers due to circumstances out of our control. It is always our preference to have a consistent and stable team which I am pleased to say has been restored for the start of the academic year.

The timings for the 2-week timetable are below. It means that rather than having 6 x 50 minutes lessons each day, students have 5 x 60 minute lessons. We map out the allocation over 2 weeks giving greater flexibility of more subjects. For example, where it may have previously been too difficult to have a period of both product design and food technology every week, we can now enable students to have a longer lesson of each once a fortnight so that we aren't having to choose between technology subjects to offer. The overall curriculum offer in core subjects amounts to the same amount of time when averaged across a week. You will note that tutor time is lengthened; this is for two reasons - firstly to allow us to retain a split lunch time (such that students can continue to have more play space as they did this year under restrictions) and so that PSHE can be delivered in the Tutor Time curriculum (for continuity of pastoral care/education). Students will of course have the logistics explained to them to support organisation. From a parenting perspective the start and finish time is consistent for all students in all year groups regardless of which teaching week it is. The timings are below for reference:

Week 1		
	KS3	KS4/5
08.45-09.45	Period 1	
09.45-10.45	Period 2	
10.45-11.00	Morning Break	
11.00-12.00	Period 3	
12.00-13.00	Period 4	
13.00-13.30	Lunch	PSHE/TT
13.30-14.00	PSHE/TT	Lunch
14.00-15.00	Period 5	

Week 2		
	KS3	KS4/5
08.45-09.45	Period 1	
09.45-10.45	Period 2	
10.45-11.00	Morning Break	
11.00-12.00	Period 3	
12.00-13.00	Period 3	
13.00-13.30	PSHE/TT	Lunch
13.30-14.00	Lunch	PSHE/TT
14.00-15.00	Period 5	

Please note the following dates for your diary where there will be an invitation to attend a bespoke Key Stage information evening at the start of term to support with an understanding of assessment and pastoral arrangements for the year ahead:

- Key Stage 3 and 5 Information Evening – 15th September 2021
- Key Stage 4 Information Evening – 29th September 2021

Reminders will be sent nearer the time, but these events are designed for you to ask any curriculum or pastoral questions you have for the year ahead to ensure we can maximise your opportunities for engagement with your child's progress. We are thrilled that our students have continued year on year over a period of 5 years to improve

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their GCSE and A level results, and we want to ensure that this trend is able to continue with no child disadvantaged by the disruption of the last year.

If you have any questions about the 2 week timetable, do please contact Mrs Timmins on htimmins@theharefieldacademy.org

Further to the update on the school day, as families prepare for the start of the 2021-22 academic year, I would like to inform you that the 20/21 COVID-19 adjustments to our Academy uniform will be no longer applicable in September. Please note that all students will wear school uniform comprising of the items below each school day. As a return to previous years, students will revert to bringing with them, any required kit for PE lessons, on the day of the lesson, where they will have facility to change in the changing rooms.

- THA jumper
- THA tie
- THA polo shirt or white shirt, with the additional option of THA pink blouse
- Black school trousers
- THA wine pleated skirt or trousers
- Black formal leather or leather type school shoes (coloured stitching or laces are not permitted. Boots, trainers and canvas shoes are not acceptable as school shoes)

Please note that the full uniform list, with important details on the THA PE kit and items of clothing/accessory items that are not permitted, is available on The Academy website. Our school uniform supplier – Pullens – have made available the attached flyer, to inform you on how they are operating business during these summer months. Whilst we are aware that the vast majority of Academy students meet – and are frequently rewarded for – high expectations of uniform and equipment for learning, any instances of failure to meet with the uniform and Behaviour for Learning policy would be followed up as per the Ladder of Consequence. The pre-COVID 19 pathways in place for reflection, detention and seclusion outside of immediate bubbles, where expectations are breached, will once again form part of our processes for supporting students with self-regulation.

Please could I take this opportunity to remind you of our social media platforms where we continue to share our positive news stories regularly. It is a great way for parents/carers to gain a daily snapshot of events and news at The Harefield Academy.

Instagram: [Tha_proud_Harefield](https://www.instagram.com/Tha_proud_Harefield)

Facebook: [The Harefield Academy](https://www.facebook.com/TheHarefieldAcademy)

Twitter: [@THA_School](https://twitter.com/THA_School)

Whilst there will be additional communications home before the end of term, please note the following key date for your diaries:

Friday 23rd July 2021 – Final day of term. ***Year 7 and 8 finish at 12.15pm. Year 9 and 10 will finish at 12.30pm.*** This will be a mufti day raising money for our senior residents Christmas lunch which we were unable to offer last year due to the pandemic.

Many thanks to you all for your continued support as we come to the end of a challenging year and look ahead with excitement to the next year of positive learning for our students.



Yours sincerely,

Tash Hurtado, Headteacher