

The Harefield Academy

Achievement through Active Learning

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Headteacher: Tash Hurtado BA PGCE



4th September 2020

Dear Year 7 Parent/Carer,

It is with great excitement that we welcome Year 7 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 7, working alongside Mrs Raper 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 a variety a variety of tutor time icebreaker activities, school photographs and completion of CATS testing, which allows us to understand the specific learning needs of your child. Over the course of this academic year, it is our priority that Year 7 feel comfortable and safe in their new school environment whilst continuing to progress academically as they start their journey into KS3.

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 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 Parent Pay login has been emailed to you. Should you have any queries regarding this system please contact Mrs G Theobald via her email at gtheobald@theharefieldacademy.org. Please be reminded that we operate a cashless system, via Parent Pay and students will not be able to use cash from Monday 7th September.

Your Class Chart login will be sent to you today, this programme will allow you to follow your child's achievement, behaviour, attendance and homework. Details on this and how parents/carers and students can use it effectively have been sent to you in your admission pack.



Your child's timetable includes a weekly, dedicated pastoral slot on Monday afternoon at 13:30pm-14.15pm. 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 Year 7 students with tutor programme exploring friendships, social progress, as well as academic mentoring.

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 Mrs Raper. 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.

Kind regards,

R Bourne

R Bourne
Head of Year 7