



HOUGHTON REGIS ACADEMY

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Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope this letter finds you all safe and well.

As we say goodbye to September and move towards October half term, I reflect on how impressed I have been with how students have adapted to the new routines at the academy. Regular lining up, hand sanitizing, working in zones and staggered lunchtimes have now become our new normal.

Our new Year 7 students have been wonderful. Their attitude to learning has been first rate. As I walk the academy, I see first-hand how hard all students are working in class and how pleasant and polite they are as they speak to staff and their peers. It is our intention to send a settling in report to all Year 7 parents to outline how each student has started their education with us. We know how important it is for parents to understand simple things such as how their child has settled in, how happy their child is and who to talk to need should you have concerns. Miss Bowen, Assistant Principal, is leading on this work.

Baseline assessments have now been completed across the academy and we are busy analysing results. This is an important piece of work for us as it helps all staff to identify gaps in student's knowledge and understanding brought about by the extended period of national lockdown. Our medium-term plans and personalised approach to curriculum delivery will be influenced by the outcomes of our analysis. We have however, already identified literacy, in particular reading, as a key focus to support students and accelerate learning. We have successfully implemented ERIC, which is short for Everyone Read In Class across the academy. It has been wonderful to see all students (and staff!) engaging in this activity on a weekly basis.

Parents who are interested in knowing about what students are learning this year can do so by visiting our curriculum tab on the academy website. This tab takes you to a series of subject specific links with each link outlining the content and knowledge that will be covered across the academic year broken down by half term. There may be some subtle changes to sequencing to reflect baseline testing. Plans are also in place to return to an extensive program of extra-curricular activities before half term, check our website for further details.

The Houghton Regis Academy is part of the Greenwood Dale Foundation Trust Group of Academies

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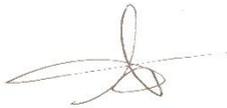
A couple of reminders to all parents. Firstly, attendance is now compulsory from the beginning of September. Missing out on more time in the classroom risks pupils falling further behind. Pupils with higher overall absence tend to achieve less well than their peers. Secondly, in the event of a future partial or full lockdown, the academy will revert to a full online curriculum delivery. We are currently working with students to ensure they are aware of how to access online work including live lessons. To support parents to understand our process, Mrs Sidhu, Vice Principal, has prepared a short video on Remote learning information and this is available to view on our website under the closure section.

Our student of the week has returned. I have asked members of staff to nominate one student in each year group who has consistently demonstrated outstanding behaviour, attitude to learning and work in class. Well done to Maya Kamua in Year 7, Aisha Ganger in Year 8 and Liam Woodland in Year 9. I hope they enjoyed their hot chocolate and blueberry muffin!

And finally, I would like to share with parents and carers that our expected move to the UTC building has been placed on hold. I have made the decision that our current building, whilst old, is far more effective in supporting us to keep the safety of students and staff at the heart at everything we do during the current COVID 19 pandemic. As soon as a date has been confirmed for the move to take place, I will be in touch.

Can I thank all parents and carers for their ongoing support during these unprecedented times.

Best wishes



Mr S. White
Principal

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