



# HOUGHTON REGIS ACADEMY

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26.3.21

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope this letter finds you all safe and well.

In another term significantly impacted upon by Covid 19, it was fantastic to eventually see all students return to the academy two weeks ago. Their resilience, determination and can-do attitude continues to astound me.

You may recall that Ofsted conducted a remote two-day visit to the academy back in February. We were delighted to receive a positive report. Whilst Ofsted have currently suspended monitoring visits, all schools and academies classed as Grade 3 (Requires Improvement) or Grade 4 (Inadequate), are continuing to receive them. I was pleased Inspectors noted that the academy was taking effective action to provide education during the pandemic. The report particularly highlights our tenacity to provide resources to support learning, clear expectations for pupils to learn and behave well and robust systems to check engagement. If you have not had the opportunity to read the report, it is available on our website using the following link:

<https://www.houghtonregisacademy.org/news/?pid=3&nid=1&storyid=131>

In staffing news, we say goodbye to Mr Grover who is moving to a school in Baldock. We wish him every success in his new role. We welcome Mrs Luck and Mrs Evans to the English team, both of whom are Specialist Leaders of Education with vast experience of teaching and leadership, we are delighted they are joining us. To support the change in staffing, there will be some amendments to our timetable. As a result of this, all students will receive a new timetable after the Easter break.

After the Easter break, we will be organising a virtual Parent consultation day. This will be an opportunity for parents and carers to meet your child's subject teachers to discuss progress over the academy lockdown. The day will run between 9am – 6pm on 29<sup>th</sup> April. Appointments will be 5-minute video calls and further information will be released by the academy at the beginning of next term.

Can I thank parents and carers for supporting our academy uniform policy. I have been very impressed with the vast majority of students who wear their uniform correctly, with pride and look incredibly smart. I am also very grateful to parents who have worked with the academy by ensuring that their children leave home correctly dressed, or by providing us with a note if there are any problems with uniform.

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

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We are, however, still experiencing a few problems with some students around the issue of jewellery and, for girls, the length and tightness of some skirts is causing me concern. Some girls are persistent in wearing tight fitting or short skirts. Whilst I appreciate that all students wish to develop their own identity and character, I am concerned that some girls' modesty, is being undermined by the choices they are making. We have spoken to several female students to highlight these points.

Can I please remind parents and carers in these regards, the academy Uniform Policy states:

'Jewellery is not allowed, except for one pair of small, plain, gold or silver coloured ear studs worn in the lower ear lobe. Other ear-rings, nose studs or other facial jewellery, acrylic nails, gel nails or nail varnish and make-up are not allowed.

School trousers and skirts must be modest enough to be worn on the Academy site and have a high enough waistband to ensure shirts can be properly tucked in. Wide belts are not allowed. Skirts are to be no shorter than knee length and trousers must not be tight fitting or 'skinny' fit. Shirts and blouses must be buttoned and neatly tucked in; ties must be correctly tied.'

Can I urge all parents to ensure that students are dressed correctly on their return after the Easter break, please do speak to Ms Gill if you have uniform concerns.

Please note that the academy will re-open after the Easter holidays on Tuesday 13<sup>th</sup> April to all students at 8.30am.

Wishing you peaceful and relaxing break



Mr S. White  
Principal  
Specialist Leader of Education

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