

To All Parents/Carers

Our Ref: STK/lmh

18th July 2019

Dear Parents/Carers

As another academic year draws to an end I wanted to write to provide updates ahead of next academic year and to thank you for your on-going support.

The Academy has, and continues to improve. A team of Ofsted Inspectors have visited the Academy twice this academic year and on each occasion have been very pleased with the progress we are making. After each visit we have agreed further improvements that need to be made and on their last visit it was agreed that **Literacy** was the one remaining area that needed improving. We have worked with primary colleagues, literacy experts and Cabot Learning Federation to develop a new framework for extended writing which clearly articulates how students should '**plan, do and review**' their writing as well as how to structure each paragraph. Alongside this we will increase our expectations on children's **spelling, punctuation and use of grammar**. We will continue to change the **culture of reading** across the Academy to ensure young people read widely and with fluency. We will be tracking this using a programme called **Accelerated Reader** (which may be familiar to many of you as several primary schools use it). We will continue to build in time in the Academy day for reading but would really value your support in insisting that your children read regularly at home.

Our exciting and challenging new **curriculum**, which we implemented this year, has been further refined to ensure students are exposed to the most challenging content possible. We want students to be inspired by the curriculum and to genuinely think like mathematicians, authors, scientists, historians, geographers, designers, artists, musicians, actors, sports performers/coaches/officials, programmers and much much more. Details of this curriculum will be on our website from September. We will of course continue to improve the **quality of teaching** and implementation of this curriculum. As in previous years there will be a number of set and class changes to ensure that students are working in appropriate groups – this will all be communicated in September.

We will also look to improve further in other areas. Schools and academies exist to educate young people. Whilst this includes academically, it also means developing young people's character including their **resilience, aspirations, tolerance, respect, confidence, honesty and responsibility** amongst others. This will be achieved through undertaking changes to the tutor time programme, Personal Development days, our PSHE programme and careers education.

Our developing Academy vision can be summarised by:

DREAM BIG // WORK HARD // ACHIEVE MORE

At Hanham Woods Academy we will continue to insist on the highest standards of **uniform, behaviour, attendance and punctuality**. Can I particularly draw attention to the fact that we insist on shoes being worn and not trainers, and that skirts should be knee length. Mr Coulstring wrote to you recently with more detail around these areas. The expectations of the work that students produce will also remain high. Many students strive to achieve every activity they undertake to the best of their ability and we will strive to maintain and develop this further moving forward into the next academic year.

We are moving all **payments** you may need to make to our **online system** 'Parent Pay'. This will mean that parents / carers will only be able to pay for trips and visits via the online system (except in exceptional circumstances). It also means you will also be able to pay for your child's dinner money online. If you require any help with any of this please do not hesitate to contact the Academy.

We have experienced some disruption and a significant cost to producing work and printing off books on different coloured paper, for students who have individual learning needs. Research undertaken by Oxford University indicates that actually only two colours have a significant positive impact. We have ordered exercise books in these colours and students will be issued with colour overlays for reading. The students have been informed already. We will of course review this change during the year to ensure no student is disadvantaged.

We have a few **staff moving on** at the end of the academic year. They are:

- Ms Morrison (Science)
- Mr Swaffin-Smith (Maths)
- Mr Mathers (Inclusion and Safeguarding)
- Mrs Lovell (Family support)
- Mrs Van Meir (RE)
- Mrs Spring (English)
- Mr Butler (Maths)
- Mr Butterfield (Teaching Assistant)
- Miss Broughton (Teaching Assistant)
- Mrs Hughes (Behaviour and Head of House)
- Mr Love (Cover Supervisor)

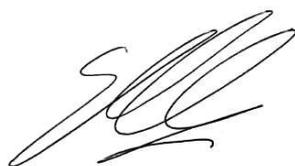
Mrs Harris and Mrs Tushingam are both going on maternity leave from September and we wish them all the best. We have recruited very well and are very excited about our new staff joining us in September.

A reminder that the **academy year finishes at 12.30pm on Tuesday 23rd July**. We welcome our new Year 7 students back on Tuesday 3rd September at 8.30am and Years 8-11 on Wednesday 4th September at the same time.

Finally, can I take this opportunity to **thank you** for your on-going support throughout this year. There is a genuine **sense of community at Hanham Woods Academy** and that stems from a partnership between home and the Academy. We have sought and acted on feedback from yourselves and will continue to do this as we strive to provide the **best education** possible for all young people.

Enjoy your summer break.

Yours sincerely



Mr S T Kneller
Academy Principal