

5<sup>th</sup> June 2020

Dear Parent/Carer

## Re: Our new half term

As we draw towards the end of our first week of the final half term of the academic year, we thought it was important to contact you all to share with you the plans we have for this half term and provide you with some other updates.

Firstly, we hope you were all able to enjoy the wonderful weather over the half term break. Where has it gone?! Further to this, with some relaxing of the 'lockdown' rules we hope you have also been able to have some face-to-face time with close friends and family, whilst maintaining the very important social distancing measures. This has to be the most challenging time that we have all collectively had to endure but it has certainly given us all time to think and evaluate our own important priorities – keeping each other safe and looking out for each other at the heart of this.

We want to extend a thank you to you all as you continue to support the home-schooling of your child/ren as we all know how crucially important their education continues to be. I also know that over four hundred families have been contacted, by telephone, already this week for conversations with form tutors about well-being and productivity with the work that your child/ren will have been receiving up to this point. Our mission is to ensure that each household has these conversations with us to help inform our own planning and to check you have enough support in place. There will be further phone calls this half term as we see this as a really important way forward before ending the academic year.

### Phased re-opening to Year 10 and Year 12 students

We know that you will all be watching the government updates as much as we are all doing. You will be aware that we can have up to 25% of Year 10 and 12 back in the academy from Monday 15<sup>th</sup> June to receive some face-to-face meetings with their class teachers and form tutors/other staff. Families were contacted earlier this week to outline all of the measures we have put in place to ensure safety during these sessions; group sizes being no more than 7 at a time.

### Our new intake

Very detailed New Intake packs were delivered to the homes of all of our new Year 7 cohort prior to the half term break and we are currently receiving completed data forms back at the academy to help us to prepare for the arrival of our new year group. There will not be any Induction Days, as we have previously held, so it is essential our new (and existing) families continue to keep in touch with us using the [info@suacademy.co.uk](mailto:info@suacademy.co.uk) if there is anything we can assist you with.

### Uniform

We have had an incredibly positive response to the news of us fully funding the new SUA blazers, skirts and ties for September. We have also received some requests for further information regarding the arrangements to enable this to happen. I have now had some confirmation from Crested School Wear in Cannock that I would like to share with families. Crested intend to be back open soon, however they have suggested opening on two Sundays in July (one at the start and one at the end of July) exclusively for SUA families. You will be able to book a time slot and have a one-to-one shopping experience in store. The staff at Crested have already been provided with a full list of student names for all students in our new Year 7 through to our current Year 10. When in store, by providing ID, they will tick students off the list as the uniform is collected.

As a reminder, the PE uniform has not changed but girls will no longer be able to buy skorts (they can still wear these if they already own one). To simplify the PE kit, plain black shorts or plain black jogging bottoms (no logos) are acceptable with a PE top with the SUA logo (compulsory). Due to popular demand, through student voice, we have introduced a hoodie with an SUA logo for PE. These are not compulsory but are available in store and can be worn as an extra layer, over their PE t-shirt, with the SUA logo, whilst outside during PE lessons.

Marston Road, Hednesford, Cannock, WS12 4JH

Tel: 01543 224700 | Email: [info@suacademy.co.uk](mailto:info@suacademy.co.uk) | Web: [www.suacademy.co.uk](http://www.suacademy.co.uk)

### Fond Farewells

Sadly, we now must say farewell to our Year 11 and 13 cohorts. For both year groups, we hope you would all know – this is not the way we would have wanted to say goodbye to the end of your GCSE or A Level / vocational studies. Not having a leavers' assembly, leavers' meal or prom this half term is incredibly strange. We wish our Year 13 students the very best on your next steps, particularly those of you who are heading off to university or onto an apprenticeship – never forget that hard work and resilience will get you all the opportunities that you deserve. Good luck and stay in touch.

Many Year 11 students will see us as they join our sixth form from September and Mr Williams will have been in touch with you already about this. It is not too late to let us know you would like to join SUA6, please contact us via email to discuss this possibility. We would like to take this opportunity to wish you all the very best of luck. You will all be contacted via telephone over the next week by your form tutor and/or Head of Year so they can also wish you well. Examination results are due to be released in August on the already published dates of **August 13<sup>th</sup> (SUA6)** and **August 20<sup>th</sup> (GCSE)**. We will send out further communication about the times the academy will be open to collect these, as well as other health and safety information, prior to the end of the term.

Our website and our Twitter / Facebook feeds will also be updated throughout the summer if government guidance changes in any way. As for a date for a re-arranged Year 11 prom, although we have been informed we can alter our booking, this continues to be in greater doubt of happening due to the social distancing rules. We guarantee that as soon as we know we can hold a prom, we will be back in touch with this information as we would need to confirm numbers with the venue.

### What's next?

Work will continue to be set for Years 7 – 10 and Year 12. This will be done in the same way it has been done up to this point. Email addresses and links with various teachers/subjects are in use and we are certain that this important school work is a priority for your child/ren to ensure they are not falling too far behind. If they are having difficulties with their work, they should continue to contact their teachers.

Further phone calls will be made to each student – thank you for your support and kind words about our Team from these conversations.

Finally, we all know the guidance continues to be very fluid with changes and additions to current rules occurring very regularly. What we must do is continue to adhere to the government's guidance and keep in touch, as much as we can do, with you all. We do not know, nor have we any guidance yet, about the return of other year groups. We also do not know what September will 'look' like in terms of the educational package that we can offer your child/ren. What we all do want is for this virus to be controlled and reduced to the extent that we can return and be back to providing a full-time education for every student in every year group. The decision to do so is not one we are able to make alone and we will continue to follow the guidance and be in touch as soon as we are able to with further information.

We hope that you all remain safe and continue to keep in touch with us all this half term prior to our summer break.

Yours sincerely,

*R. Hillier*

Mrs R. Hillier

Principal

*M. Allsopp*

Mr M. Allsopp

Vice Principal