

31st August 2017



Dear Parents / Carers

The New Academic Year 2017-18

I hope you have all had a restful summer break and are getting ready for next week. A polite reminder about the times that your child/children need to attend the academy in their full uniform for the start of term on Wednesday 6th September:

Year 7: Arrive and report to the academy hall at 8.45am

Year 12 and Year 13: Arrive and report to the academy hall at 9.30am

Years 8, 9, 10 and 11: Report to your form rooms at 10.05am. *(If you are unsure of the room please see the attached list)*

This academic year we want to improve communication with all families – this newsletter is the start. I will be posting out regular updates as we move forward. The updates will let you know what we are doing in response to our recent Ofsted report.

One of the key concerns highlighted in both the Ofsted report and in our first Parents' Forum meeting was that of behaviour. As a result we are relaunching our behaviour strategy and hope you will support us with our insistence in at least good behaviour and excellent Attitude to Learning. A new RESPECT policy is being launched and this insists on basic good manners and behaviour across the academy.

The following changes will take effect from Wednesday 6th September:

1. All students should arrive on time every day in the correct academy uniform. Those not in full academy uniform will be sent home to get changed before they are allowed in to the academy building. There should be absolutely no trainers or pumps, no skinny jeans/trousers and no facial piercings in the nose. *(Please see our website for the full uniform list)*
2. Breakfast Club will still run every morning from 8am, from Thursday 7th September. However, students will not be able to get into the main academy building from the dining room. ALL students will be expected to enter the academy via the Student Entrance.
3. Upon arrival at the Student Entrance every student will be checked for the correct uniform and the correct equipment. Equipment includes a school bag, pen, pencil, ruler and planner *(all planners will be issued on the first day back at the academy)*. If students have not got the correct equipment they will have a detention on the same day after school.
4. The government is very clear about the notice we are required to give parents for detentions – **no notice is required**. Students will be expected to complete detentions on the same day they are set. The academy will attempt to send a text message to inform you of the detention *(if we have your up to date mobile phone number on our system. We have attached a Data Checking sheet with this letter, please check all of your contact details carefully and return to the academy next week.)*
5. However, it is the student's responsibility to contact parents as it will have been their behaviour that has resulted in the detention.
6. The Senior Leadership Team will be regularly visiting classrooms to check on behaviour and the teaching and learning that is taking place. Under the new RESPECT policy, students will be expected to stand when a

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member of SLT enters their classroom and a student representative will be asked to describe the learning that is taking place.

7. If the academy has any concerns about the performance and Attitude to Learning of any students we will arrange urgent meetings with parents in the first few weeks of the new term.

Another key concern highlighted by Ofsted was the progress being made by our students. As a result the following schools are now supporting us to address these concerns:

- Painsley Catholic College – an Outstanding School based in Staffordshire. They will be working very closely with the academy to improve the core subjects of mathematics and English.
- St. Joseph's College – an Outstanding Grammar School based in Stoke. They will be working with other departments across the academy to improve the results for our students.

New teachers join 'Team SUA' from next week to support and strengthen our progress agenda:

- Mitchell Allsopp – an additional Vice Principal. Mitchell will be working specifically on the role of achievement, progress and intervention across the academy.
- Victoria Burns and Scott Williams – Two new Directors of Teaching and Learning. Victoria and Scott join the extended leadership team and will be supporting staff in developing teaching and learning.
- Chris Shepherd – New Head of Year 7 including Year 6 transition
- Ian Kirk – New Head of Year 8 and Year 9
- Rob Porter – Head of Year 10 and Year 11 (*started Easter 2017*)
- Sharon Parkes – English Progress Leader for Year 10 and Year 11 (*started Easter 2017*)

Due to the promotion of several colleagues who left the academy in the summer and the growing numbers of children joining us at SUA, we would also like to welcome other teachers to the team:

- Esther Humpage – Head of Faculty for the Creative Arts
- Andrew Robinson – Head of Science
- Amber Goodwin – Teacher in Charge within Humanities
- Kate Branch – Teacher in Charge of Psychology and Sociology

Finally, a big thank you to all of those parents who joined us for our first Parents' Forum meeting last term. The first Parents' Forum meeting this academic year will be held on 25th September 2017, 6-7pm in the academy hall. We will continue to contact you regularly to update you with the progress we are making as a result of our changes.

Thank you for your support and we all look forward to working with you this academic year.

R. Hillier.

Mrs R. Hillier
Principal