



25 August 2021

Dear Parents/Carers

Return to School

I do hope that you have managed to enjoy a relaxing and restful summer break and that your son/daughter is looking forward to returning to school. As always, we are looking forward to welcoming our pupils back to school and I wanted to take the opportunity to remind families of our expectations as we all return to the academy.

Covid 19 - Academy testing and return to school dates

As per the Government guidelines communicated at the end of the last school year, we are expected to support the testing of pupils on their return to the academy in September. We wrote to families on 28 July (copy attached) detailing the arrangements for testing - please check timings carefully to ensure that your child arrives at the correct time on the correct day. After your son/daughter has had their test, they are expected to remain in school until the time detailed in the attached letter, and therefore they will need to be in uniform and ensure that they have the correct equipment.

Mobile Phone Use

Again I refer to our letter of 19 July (copy attached) detailing changes to our mobile phone policy that come into force this academic year. Please remind your son/daughter that although mobile phones are allowed in school they need to remain turned off in their bag whilst on the Academy site. Students seen using a phone will be asked to put it away and students that ignore the instruction risk having their phone confiscated.

Any messages that you need passed to your son/daughter can be sent via reception, which is manned from 8.00am - 4.00pm. Should your son/daughter need to speak to you they can go to reception where a member of staff can contact you.

Uniform and Equipment Expectations

Pupils are expected to arrive at the academy in the correct uniform and they will be greeted every morning at the gate where this will be checked. Please ensure that you are fully aware of the expectations which are available here <https://www.hayesbrook.kent.sch.uk/uniform>. Pupils who do not arrive in the correct uniform will be issued with appropriate alternatives that they will be expected to return to reception at the end of the academy day.

Since the return to school after lockdown, teaching staff have commented on the disruption to learning caused by pupils being poorly equipped for the school day. Details of equipment expectations are also in the above link. The pastoral teams will be making this a focus throughout the year, so please support them and enforce the importance of this with your son/daughter. Taking responsibility for their learning is an important part of a student's development to become successful learners and is even more important this year as we move towards becoming a Google Chromebook academy at some point in the year.

Attendance and Punctuality

Whilst the pandemic interrupted the 2020-21 academic year, attendance when the school was open was consistently above the national average, which was fantastic. However the hard work in this area must continue into the 2021-22 academic year. Students who attend school regularly are statistically far more likely to achieve better outcomes at 16 and 18, and I know that you will want your child to succeed. Please can you take the time to review our expectations for attendance here <https://www.hayesbrook.kent.sch.uk/attendance>. A key point I would like to emphasise is that

the average attendance % for secondary pupils in pre-pandemic England is 95%. This is therefore our expectation for pupils at Hayesbrook and will be a focus point throughout the 2021-22 academic year.

Punctuality is also important, so please can I re-emphasise the importance of your son/daughter arriving by 8.40am for the start of Period 1 at 8.45am. We will continue this academic year to start the day with our first learning period, therefore poor punctuality directly reduces the learning opportunity for your child. The academy gates will open at 8.20am every morning.

Covid 19 Precautions

We enjoyed a successful return to the academy, both in September and March, when precautions and measures taken to minimise the impact of Covid were largely successful. We will continue to keep certain measures in place for the coming academic year, as well as continuing to monitor the national and local picture. If we feel the need to raise our measures I will write to update you of the further steps we will be taking. We will discuss the continuing measures we are taking with your son/daughter as part of their return to academy processes from next week.

Finally, I hope you have a lovely bank holiday weekend and we look forward to welcoming back your son/daughter next week.

Yours sincerely



Mr S St John
Head of School