

September 2017

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome back after, what I hope, was an enjoyable and relaxing summer for you and your family. I am pleased to report that our new Year 7 students are settling in extremely well and are looking smart and responding positively, politely and confidently in their new learning environment.

Please can I remind all parents/carers that there is no access for students to be dropped off or picked up by car through the main gates at the start or end of the academy day. The gates are electronically locked for the safety and security of all students and staff. Parents/carers may pick up their child/children from the main reception later (after the end of the school day) if their child/children have stayed for Homework/Meteor Club.

Students **must not** be dropped off or picked up on First Avenue – this is a Clearway and the Police have advised there is no stopping allowed on this road at any time. Parents/carers bringing students to the academy by car at the start of the day should drop them in the Mark Hall Sports Centre car park between 8:00am and 8:40am, where a member of academy staff will be on duty at the connecting gate to the academy site. Please note there is a **5mph speed limit in place in the Sports Centre car park**. Please always drive slowly and carefully in this area for the safety of our students and staff. Parents collecting students from the academy should pick up in the Sports Centre car park between 3:10pm and 3:30pm. Please park in the bays while you are waiting and not around the perimeter and please follow the arrows. **The safety of our children is paramount.**

GCSE Results

Following our successful judgement from Ofsted just over a year ago of 'Good with Outstanding behaviour', I am delighted to report that our GCSE results this summer have continued on an upward trajectory with 52% of students gaining a pass English and maths and we doubled our EBACC pass rate from last year. It is also particularly satisfying that 100% of our students have moved on to further education, employment and training and have pathways for their futures. I would like to congratulate the students and thank all the parents/carers who have supported the academy and our young people so that they can achieve. I am also grateful to my hard-working and committed staff for their 'can-do' positive attitude and the support and care they give to our students.

Early Closure – Open Evening, Thursday 5th October

Advanced notice that we shall be holding our annual Open Evening for prospective parents and their children on Thursday 5th October. In order to set up for this event, the Academy day will finish at 12.30 p.m. and students will be dismissed at this time. Any student eligible for a free school meal will be able to collect a packed lunch from the Canteen at break time. We are delighted that many students are keen to support and help out on the night as Student Leaders. They will be issued with a letter which will require parental permission to be given shortly.

Please also note that the day following our Open Evening, Friday 6th October, is a non-student day as this is a designated staff training day. Students must attend as normal on Monday 9th Oct.

Student and Family Information

Please see attached a Mark Hall Student and Family Information form which we ask you to complete and return to the Academy soon as possible. This is for Years 8 – 11 only. This information helps us keep our records up-to-date including any changes of addresses, mobile phone numbers and email addresses. This information is important so that we are able to make contact with you especially in cases of emergency.

Principal: Mrs C Franceschi BA (HONS), NPQH

Mark Hall Academy, First Avenue, Harlow, Essex, CM17 9LR

T: 01279 866 280 F: 01279 866 286 E: office@mha.atrust.org.uk W: www.mha.atrust.org.uk

We also ask that you complete the information on the form for nationality, ethnicity background and First/Home language as The Department for Education requires this information on all students from all schools/academies. **These must be returned no later than Tuesday 26th September**

Absence during term time

Please can I remind parents/carers that students should not take time off during term time and requests will only be considered for approval under exceptional circumstances. **The Academy does not support holidays requested during term time.** If a request is made for leave of absence and this is not approved and the student does not attend during the stated period, then a fixed penalty notice could be issued upon the student's return.

Uniform

- Please note that **skirts should be worn to the knee**. Any student who persistently flouts this rule will be required to wear trousers.
- As the weather starts to get colder over the next term, please can I remind all parents/carers and students of our rules: **Black v-neck jumper with blue stripe on v-neck. No hoodies, cardigans, jumpers, sweatshirts, tracksuit tops, waistcoats, body warmers, denim jackets etc. are to be worn. Hoodies and other items listed above are NOT to be worn to and from the Academy. They must remain at home.**
- Outdoor coats should be of a plain dark colour, with no logos. Hoodies, denim and other products of fashion are **not allowed (as above)**.
- **Scarves should be plain Academy sky blue or black; fashion-type, patterned scarves are not permitted and should remain at home.**
- **Nose studs** and other forms of body piercing or visible tattoos are **not permitted**.

The full guide (Academy Uniform and Dress Code Expectations) can be found on the website at: <http://www.mha.attrust.org.uk/academy-life/uniform/>.

Parent Council

I would like to remind you that we have a Parent Council which meets each half term to discuss a range of issues in order to offer its opinions. It is a means of opening up dialogue and feedback on what the Academy is doing, why, and giving parents the opportunity to contribute to policy making on issues which affect them. More information and the terms of reference can be found at: <http://www.mha.attrust.org.uk/about-us/parents/>

Future meetings will be held on (all meetings start at 5.15pm)

18 October 2017	7 March 2018
15 November 2017	2 May 2018
24 January 2018	27 June 2018

Dates for Diary

5 October	Open Evening (students finish school at 12.30 pm)
6 October	Non-student Day
12 October	Year 11 Parents' Evening
18 October	Parent Council Meeting
23 Oct - 27 Oct	Half Term
30 October	Non-student day
31 October	Poland Trip Meeting – 6.15 pm
2 November	All year groups Meet the Tutor Evening
15 November	Parent Council Meeting
17 November	Children in Need Day
30 November	Krakow Trip departs
30 November	Christmas Concert – St Mary's – 6 pm
4 December	Krakow Trip returns
7 December	Year 9 Parents' Evening
21 Dec – 3 Jan	Christmas Break (students return on Wednesday 4 January at normal time)

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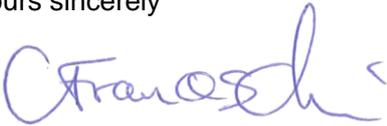
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Mrs Butler

Thank to those of you who have sent your good wishes for a speedy recovery to Mrs Butler. Mrs Butler, our much valued Vice Principal and a vital member of my senior leadership team, had a minor operation over the summer break where serious medical errors were made. This resulted in a major emergency operation of a very serious nature. Mrs Butler is slowly recovering and is likely to be off work for at least the remainder of this half term. As a dedicated professional who has made strong relationships with many of our families, she wanted you to know why she was not in school and in touch. Whilst Mrs Butler is absent, her work will be undertaken across my Progress Leaders and senior leadership team. Thank you for your support.

I look forward to meeting you at various events throughout the year and thank you for your continuing support as we aim to be the best that we can be.

Yours sincerely



Corinne Franceschi
Principal

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