

Dear Parents and Carers,

As another busy and successful term comes to a close and we approach the Easter holidays, we would like to take this opportunity to give you some updates and reminders. We would also like to thank all staff, students and parents/carers for their support and commitment throughout the year.

Last day of term – Friday 5th April

Period 1 and 2 will take place as normal, followed by period 3 in Home Groups. Students will be dismissed at 12.30 pm. There will be no hot food available, but should your child require lunch, or for those students who receive a Free School Meal, these should be purchased/collected at break time.

Reports

All students in Years 10 and 11 will have been given a copy of their Spring progress report, including mock exam results to bring home with them. Please use this opportunity to discuss your child's progress with them and set some targets. Years 7-9 will receive their progress reports during the first week back after Easter.

Easter Academy- 15-17th April

Students in Year 11 and 10 have been **invited** by their teachers to attend study sessions to support with their upcoming exams. Only those students who have been targeted should attend. The final version of the Easter timetabled study sessions will be available to view on the academy website. Please ensure that your child attends on time.

Options

Students in Years 9 and 10 next term will be discussing options. We will send information about the Options Evening and process after the Easter break.

Uniform

Many parents/carers buy new uniform over the Easter holidays, so **please ensure you check our uniform policy before doing so** to ensure that your purchases comply with our high standards and expectations. In particular, please note our policy on footwear as students wearing incorrect footwear will be required to wear Academy plimsolls or study in isolation until footwear that complies with our policy is worn. **Students should wear plain black shoes – no trainers or 'trainer-style' footwear.** May I also remind you that nose/tongue studs and other forms of body piercing or visible tattoos are not permitted. **Students are also expected to wear full Academy uniform both to and from the Academy – in the morning on their way in and after school on their way home.**

Details of our uniform policy can be found on our website at: <http://www.mha.attrust.org.uk/academy-life/uniform/>

Attendance and Punctuality

Students should arrive at the Academy by 08.35 and be in their Home Groups by 8.40 a.m. Students who arrive late will be issued a next day C3 (60 minute) detention after school unless there is a sound reason for their lateness. All students are expected to have a minimum of 98% attendance.

Fixed Penalty Notices

- Any persistent absence may mean that a fixed penalty notice may be issued.
- **The Academy does not support any holidays requested during term time.** A request for absence must be made giving at least two weeks' notice. If a request is not approved and the student does not attend during the stated period, then a fixed penalty notice will be issued upon the child's return.
- Any student with less than 90% attendance with any unauthorised absence will be sent a warning letter and if no improvement is made then a fixed penalty notice will be issued.

Principal: Mr Jonathan Fuller BA (Hons) PGCE NPQH

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

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

Mobile Phones

We allow students to have a mobile phone in the academy under clear conditions and in designated areas; many schools ban them as they can disrupt learning and be the cause of cyber-bullying.

However, if a mobile is the cause of a problem in a lesson or a problem between students (or any other type of problem has been caused by the use of a mobile phone – 24/7) then the mobile phone will be confiscated and will only be returned to a parent/carer. In serious or persistent cases, the student will have to hand their phone in at the start of the day and collect it at the end of the day. If parents and pupils do not want this to happen then we ask that mobiles are used responsibly by students and only for the good/positive.

If students are put on internal isolation, for whatever reason, they will also have to hand in their phone at the start of the day and collect it at the end of the day. This is non-negotiable.

Students are only allowed to use their mobiles at break or lunch in the West Hall, Café 54 or outside. They can only use them in lessons with the permission of their teacher.

We have a complete ban on students using their mobile to film or take photos of other students, even if a student has given permission.

If a student wants to make contact with a parent/carer during the school day, then this must be done by a member of staff.

Kooth

By visiting the website Kooth.com young people can now have 24/7 access to a fully qualified counsellor. This may be something you wish to discuss with your son/daughter.

Keeping Safe over the Easter

Sadly, every Easter, there seem to be news reports of tragedies involving young people because they take unnecessary risks and put themselves in danger. Please ensure you remind your children how to keep safe: safety around water; road and rail safety; on-line (e-safety); sun safety; keeping personal possessions safe, to name but a few. Essex Police provide a range of useful tips at the following link <https://www.essex.police.uk/advice/summer-safety/> and CEOP's ThinkUknow is a really useful website for E-Safety advice for all ages <http://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/>

Summer Term 2019

We start back on Tuesday 23rd April 2019. This is a normal academy day and all students are expected to arrive in **full academy uniform**.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank staff who will be leaving Mark Hall Academy at the end of this term and to wish them every success and happiness in the future:

Teaching Staff:

Mr Archer (PE)
Ms Rixson (English)
Ms Patel (EAL/SEND)

We look forward to welcoming the following new staff in the Summer Term:

Teaching Staff:

Mr Rayson (Humanities)
Mr Hoole-Jackson (PE)
Ms Forster-Heke (English)

We wish you and your family a very happy and restful Easter holiday.

Yours sincerely



Mrs M Hazle
First Vice Principal



Mrs V Butler
Vice Principal