

Re: Principal's letter no.1

Year 12 & 13

20th October 2017

Dear Parents and carers

I have been extremely impressed with the students and the way that they have adapted to the new academic year and the demands that it has brought. My aim is to ensure that every student feels safe and that their learning goes uninterrupted. In total, senior and middle leaders have observed nearly 100 lessons so far this term. Much of what we have seen has been very pleasing with high levels of student engagement. We will continue to watch each other teach so that we can all continue to develop the quality of teaching across the academy and thereby ensure that every student gets their entitlement of 6 good or better lessons every day. Your child's education matters too much to aim for anything less and although we are at the beginning of our journey, I am very optimistic about the future and the kind of school we can build here.

I have learnt that the students at Evelyn Grace are always keen to talk to adults and many of them were only too happy to talk about their school when they volunteered during our open evening on Thursday 28th November. This was a very successful event and the students sold the academy very well to our prospective year 6 parents. It was a wonderful occasion where I saw students recite poetry, shoot hoops, play chess and perform rather exciting looking experiments.

Homework timetables

We have given every student in years 7 – 11 their own homework timetable and this should now be glued into their planner. I have enclosed a copy of this so that you can compare what your child is writing in their planner with what should have been set. Of course, Years 12 & 13 do not need a HW timetable because independent work is set every single lesson. Indeed, we would expect for every 55 minute lesson, each student spends the same amount of time studying out of lessons.

Enrichment

Enrichment has now begun and there is a good variety of activities to choose from. The timetable is advertised on our website under the 'Life at School' heading as well as on the television screens that are mounted around the academy. Please encourage your child to participate and explore their talents.

Parents' evenings

Thank you to those of you who supported all the parents' evenings I ran earlier on this half term. I was very warmly welcomed and I was happy to share how excited and privileged I am in becoming Principal at Evelyn grace. Every year group will have at least one further parents' evening over the course of the year. These will give you an opportunity to meet with every teacher that your child has and gain a clear understanding of the progress they are making and what they need to do to advance further. In addition, Year 13, 11 and 9 will have a further parents' evenings to share information with you all on the UCAS, GCSE and Options processes. Attendance at all of these events will be essential as they will help you support your child in making the right choices about their futures and prepare correctly for their forthcoming exams. The dates for all the parents' evenings are as follows:

Parents' evening dates

Year Group	Date
Year 7	Thursday 19 th April 2018
Year 8	Thursday 24 th May 2018
Year 9	Thursday 11 th January 2018
Year 9: GCSE Options Evening	Thursday 8 th February 2018
Year 10	Thursday 18 th January 2018
Year 11:	Thursday 4 th January 2018
Year 12 & 13	Thursday 1 st February 2018
Year 13: UCAS Information Evening	Thursday 16 th November 2017
Year 11: GCSE Preparation Evening	Thursday 22 nd March 2018

At the end of the Autumn Term, every year group will sit an exam in each of their subjects. For Year 13 and 11, these will be their first mock exams and will be run just like the actual GCSE and A Level exams in the Summer. Students in years 7 – 10 will complete their assessments during their lessons. Therefore, all students should be using half term to go over what they have been learning in preparation for these assessments.

The dates of the exams are as follows:

Year Group	Mock Exam	
Years 11 & KS5	Monday 20 November 2017	Wednesday 29 th November 2017

Attendance & punctuality

One area where a minority of students really have to work harder is to improve their punctuality and attendance. This is particularly true, although not exclusively, of some students in year 10 and 11. To support your child with their learning please ensure that your child does not stay off school unless they really are too unwell to come in. If they have a cold or simply feel a little under the weather, ensure that you send them in. Our target for the year is 95%, but currently, only two year groups are meeting this target. Well done to year 7 and 12! On a related point, too many students are continuing to be late to school. The late gate closes at 8.25 sharp and any student arriving after this time will be given a 45-minute

detention for that day. Please ensure that your child is going to bed at a reasonable hour and is then getting up with enough time to leave home and get to school on time. We are on duty at the gate from 8.00 am and many students arrive long before that so that they may do some basketball training or independent study. Breakfast is also available in the library, so there really is absolutely no excuse to be late to school. Parents of students who are persistently late and absent will be written to and invited into school to discuss the situation. Parents have a legal responsibility to ensure their child is in school and arriving on time. Failure to do this may result in our having to arrange home visits and initiate legal proceedings. Thank you to all parents who are working with us to support their child and ensure that they are not missing any learning. All students with 100% attendance and punctuality will be given a certificate in the rewards assemblies in the final week of this half term. Every half term, there will also be a prize draw for students with 100% attendance and punctuality, where two boys and two girls from each year group will be given a £10 voucher.

Sixth Form Open Evening

We have had a record number of students join us in year 12 this year and we hope to build on this success next year. To give our students an idea of what sixth form life has to offer at Evelyn Grace we are holding an open evening for current year 11 students and their parents. This will give you an idea of the courses on offer and the kind of careers each course might prepare you for. **The evening will begin at 6.00 pm on Thursday 9th November.**

It has been a pleasure and a privilege to meet so many of you and I look forward to meeting more of you over the coming months and getting to know you and your child.

Yours sincerely,

Mr T Dainty
Principal
Ark Evelyn Grace Academy