



Evelyn Grace Academy

Mr Devon Hanson | **Principal**

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20 December 2016

Dear Parent(s)/Carer(s),

End of Term Wednesday, 21 December 2016 at 12.30pm

We have had a very busy and successful autumn term and I would like to thank you for your continuous support.

YEAR 13

Have been continuing their journey to university or a career of their choice. They have all been working hard on their studies, showing their determination to achieve their best, as well as deciding on the universities and courses that they wish to apply for.

It has been heart-warming and exciting to see our own students applying for very competitive, top universities, such as Warwick, Bristol, Manchester and Southampton.

Particularly pleasing is to see the ways that the students have increased their effort and application to their studies when they have received offers to study at the universities of their choice.

For both year groups, it has been a long road and not without its difficult moments, but the group is in good shape – they support each other and work together well – and we are confident of success.

All of the students in our Sixth Form have already achieved examination results that we can be proud of, and they have begun their further studies with a great sense of determination, fervor and dedication.

As well as enjoying the development of their specific subject knowledge, whether it is studying contemporary poetry in English Literature, learning about the memory in Psychology or studying projectiles in Physics.

(Cont'd...)

YEAR 12

Year 12 have been gradually introduced into the further demands of Key Stage 5 as they recognise the need to take part in a range of enriching activities.

Already, Year 12 have taken part in a wide range of enriching activities – we worked with CoachBright for the first time and saw a number of students stretch their knowledge, understanding and skills in academic subjects.

We have had a range of outside speakers come to introduce us to the world of work and applied for – and been accepted on – a number of important programmes, such as Realising Opportunities and Futures, that will assist them when they come to apply to competitive universities next year.

Year 12 are a great bunch of students and we are proud of their achievements – they work very cohesively and have a great sense of being a community of learners.

YEAR 11

As the term has progressed the level of commitment and focus has started to increase. The cohort have been working hard in the build up towards their GCSE examinations in the summer. This term has been about raising their attainment and completing college applications.

Most of year 11 have been attending interventions before and after school and also attending tuition sessions on Saturday's to help them to adopt useful revision skills, which will support them achieving the best grades possible.

Please encourage your child to attend all sessions available to them and ensure they complete at least 2 hours revision time every day in holidays.

Year 11 have had their mock exams and you will be receiving their grades over the holidays. It is important that you help your child to organise their time for revision outside of school as what they do at school including interventions will not be enough if they want to achieve highly.

On top of this attendance and punctuation go hand in hand with those who are successful. Please help to drive this message home.

YEAR 10

Year 10 continue to show leadership, across the Academy, in many ways: from active participation in Goldman Sachs' speed networking event, in which they mined the minds of successful adults to plan their own futures and the JP Morgan Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths (STEM) project.

They have demonstrated our core values of Excellence, Endeavour and Self-Discipline and EGA Student qualities by volunteering their time to show everyone from prospective parents, to international delegates from the University of Michigan, what is great about our school.

These positive attitudes are also reflected in the Year Group's approach towards their first assessments in Year 10. It is a joy to see students are working hard and working independently, with peers and their teachers, to aim for the best grades.

Thank you for doing what it takes to ensure your child is present and on time for learning. Every day counts.

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YEAR 9

Our Year 9 students have made great strides this term as they have come to terms with a new and more rigorous curriculum across their subjects this term. The students have had to come to terms with taking more responsibility for their own progress as we begin the process of preparing for KS4 and developing a new mind set. In sporting terms I have been very proud of the boy's football team and the netball girl's exploits.

We will continue to offer Maths intervention next term which has made a significant difference to those who attended regularly; the day of intervention now moving to every Tuesday instead of Wednesday after school every week.

Next year our students will face more challenges as the level of homework increases and their resilience will be tested. I have no doubt that they will rise to the challenge as they were excellent during a number of their assessments this term – displaying a genuine desire to achieve and be successful.

We are all in this together, united in our pursuit of progress for our children. I look forward to seeing you during options evening early next year and working with you all moving forward.

YEAR 8

They have shown fantastic progress this term and it has been a delight to witness the endeavor and resilience within our students to achieve in lessons. Many year 8 students have taken part in extra-curricular activities this term and have shown great skills especially our boy's football and girl's netball teams.

Student's ability to organize and structure their own learning has improved which has permitted them to understand the importance of prior planning to make great progress, which is the first step towards developing independence.

Students in year 8 have been focusing on teamwork and pushing one another to progress which helps build strong relationships.

The next academic term will come with challenges, yet through showing resilience, integrity and responsibility our students will continue to push themselves and make fantastic achievements. As a school we are very proud of year 8's and look forward to the many successes that will come in 2017.

YEAR 7

Our Year 7 students have made such an impressive, positive start and have settled into EGA almost immediately.

Their organization has improved immeasurably and moving forward they will be able to make greater rates of progress due to being able to focus more on their subjects rather than how to navigate around the academy.

There has been lots of positive comments from staff as to how well and quickly they have settled. We are extremely pleased and proud as they have begun to exceed some of the expectations that were set at the start of the year.

As parents you should be just as proud of your children as we are. We look forward to continuing to work together across the remainder of the year.

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Behaviour

We continue to sustain our zero tolerance of violence, weapons and aggression. Any student found in possession of a weapon or a knife will be **permanently excluded** as we cannot and will not compromise the safety of our students and staff.

Uniform

The official school trousers are charcoal/grey in colour and students wearing black trousers will be sent home to change. **Black shoes** only no trainers are permitted.

Only girls are allowed to wear earrings (one small gold or silver stud in each ear)

Nail varnish, acrylic nails or make-up is also not permitted

Hair is neat and natural, without 'designs', 'cut-ins' or an excessive number of hair accessories or colours.

Students Absence

It is important that we are all mindful of the importance of students being in school every day if they are to make good progress. Parents are, therefore, **not permitted** to take students abroad in term time.

Permission can be granted by me only in special circumstances and only if the student has **attendance of at least 95%**. Students' appointments should not be made during the school day as their absence will affect their learning time and attendance.

Cashless Systems

In an attempt to remove all cash and cheques from the Academy we will be asking all parents/guardians from **April 2017** to only use our e-payment method to pay for dinner money, trips etc.

In an attempt to be proactive we are asking those parents/guardians who do not already use the e-payment system to start familiarising themselves with the practise, this can be done online using a very secure website called ParentPay (all parents/guardians have been given a ParentPay account) or in cash at local stores where you see the PayPoint logo (if you would prefer to pay via PayPoint please contact the admin office and we will supply you with a barcode for use in-store).

Further information and guides will be sent out in the coming months, in the meantime please do not hesitate to contact the admin office if you need assistance. Your support in using ParentPay/PayPoint will help the school enormously.

Parent Forum

The next Parents forum will be held at the Academy on **Wednesday, 1 February 2017**. Please try and make this date available in your diaries. The focus of this session will be on Careers education and our 'Safer Schools' partnership.

A2 Assessments

Your child has had a second assessment completed which is attached to this letter. You should expect to see that your daughter or son has made progress compared to their A1 assessment in October 2016.

Once again a big thanks to all parents and carers for all your invaluable and continued support throughout this term, as we work together to assist your children to thrive and achieve.

Please remember to regular check our website for updates and information regarding events and information that may be placed there.

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It is also particularly important that you keep us informed of changes to contact details, telephone numbers, address etc. so that we can reach you in an emergency.

I would like to wish you and your family a happy and joyous Christmas holiday. Students will be dismissed at **12.30pm** on **Wednesday, 21 December 2016**.

I look forward to welcoming your daughter or son back to school on the **Thursday, 5 January 2016** at **08:25am in full school uniform** equipped and ready to learning were we will continue to work together to achieve the very best for our students.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "D. Hanson", written over a light grey rectangular background.

Mr Devon Hanson
Principal