

8th January 2018

Dear Parents

I wish you all a Happy New Year and trust that you all enjoyed the Christmas period.

This is a very busy term as our Year 11 and 13 students look to prepare themselves for their GCSE and A Level exams. This is a relatively short term, so we will soon have our second set of assessments and mock exams. These begin on Monday 26th February 2018 and so every student needs to think carefully about how they ensure they have learnt all the relevant content and understand how to apply this knowledge to particular exam questions. Lessons, homework and independent study will focus on exactly these things.

I have written to a great many parents to congratulate those who have made good progress or secured high attainment in their subjects, but there is still a huge amount of work for all students to do!

Year 11 Interventions

To support every Year 11 student, we have begun an intervention during form time. All Year 11s will be learning either Maths and English during every form time this term. These 20-minute sessions will focus on re-teaching material that students did not quite grasp in their previous mocks and of course lots and lots of exam question practice. In order to do this, we have had to make some changes to the form groups across the academy. This obviously affects some students who have previously had a Form Tutor who is a Maths or English Teacher and is now needed for this intervention. The changes are summarised below. Therefore, for this term, parents are asked to contact the form tutors outlined below if they are in one of the form groups affected. These staff will all take responsibility for their pastoral care and should be the main point of contact.

Tutor Group	Tutor/ Intervention Lead	Co-Tutor
11 Aristotle	Karen Sookdew (English)	
11 Chomsky	Sherika Boothe (English)	
11 Plato	Novelette Bennett / Lazaros Vastavos (Maths)	Everton Augustus
11 Sartre	Shaun Champion (English)	
11 Socrates	Ashraf Ullah (Maths)	
11 Warnock	Damian Kidd (Maths)	Michelle Lue Cooper
11 Wollstonecraft	Danielle Bailey (Maths)	

Tutor Group	Tutor for Spring Term	Co-Tutor
7 Bronte	Patience Agbontohoma	Sue Christoforou
8 Beethoven	Victoria Isaac	
9 Owens	Meghan Meredith	
10 Pythagoras	Simon Wingate	

There will be great number of interventions for year 11 running this term and we will let you know when and where your child is expected to attend. These interventions are compulsory and failure to attend will result in either a sanction being issued or their place being given over to someone else. Please speak with Louise Thompson, Shah Ashraf, Moses Kabba or Jenny Fuller if you have any questions about any matters relating to Year 11.

Year 9 options process

It is a very important term for all Year 9 students as they start the process of choosing their GCSE options subjects. The GCSE Options Information Evening is on Thursday 8th February 2018, 17:00-19:30, in which all Year 9 students and their parents need to attend to receive vital information about the GCSE Options process so that all Year 9 students make the correct GCSE choices for study in Year 10 and Year 11. After the GCSE Options Information Evening, Year 9 students will have some time to discuss their GCSE option choices with their Form Tutors, Subject Teachers and parents. Year 9 students will then have a scheduled interview to attend with a member of SLT to finalise their GCSE Option subject choices in-line with their Autumn 2 Assessment Data.

Uniform expectations

Whilst I am very pleased with how the majority have responded to the revised behaviour policy introduced in September, there are still some issues that I need further support from parents so that expectations are met. Firstly, there is a small minority of students who are not complying with all of the uniform expectations. Therefore, I would like to outline these once again:

- All outdoor coats should be plain Black or Navy blue and not green or red
- Boys and Girls should wear loose dark grey trousers and not ones that are black or too tight!
- Girls also have the option of wearing a knee length pleated dark grey skirt.
- No student should wear more than one gold or silver stud in the soft part of their earlobe.
- No false nails or nail varnish should be worn.
- Every student must wear an academy blazer.
- Shoes must be black leather.
- There should be no extreme hair styles or non-natural colourings.

In order to give parents time to ensure that your child has the required uniform and complies with the expectations above I am setting a deadline of **Monday 22nd January**. After this point, a student who does not comply with these expectations will either be sent home, excluded from lessons or have the item(s) confiscated. These rules are not unreasonable and failure to comply with these rules will obviously interrupt their learning and this is exactly what I want to avoid so please support us in helping moving the academy forward.

Parents' evenings

This term has a significant number of parents' evenings and so I have included the details of these below:

Year Group	Parents' Evening Dates
Year 9 Parents' Evening	Thursday 11 th January 2018
Year 10 Parents' Evening	Thursday 18 th January 2018
Year 12 & 13 Parents' Evening	Thursday 1 st February 2018
Year 9 Options & Pathways Information Evening	Thursday 8 th February 2018
Year 11 GCSE Readiness	Thursday 2 nd March 2018
Year 7 Parents' Evening	Thursday 19 th April 2018
Year 8 Parents' Evening	Thursday 24 th May 2018

We obviously expect all parents to attend these evenings as they are a vital means of understanding where your child is in each subject and what they need to do to improve. Parents who fail to attend will be required to come into the academy at another time to discuss your child's progress.

Key Stage 3 set changes

After careful analysis of the assessment data for students in years 7, 8 and 9 we are going to make a number of set changes to give your child the very best opportunity to achieve success in their subjects. These changes will enable us to ensure that your child:

1. is in the correct achievement group
2. has as few teachers as possible teaching a single subject
3. studies a modern foreign language that they are able to have long term success in.

We feel the factors above will have a positive impact on your child's education. Due to the limitations of the curriculum it will mean that there will be a small number of year 7 students that will need to study a new modern foreign language, however we are clear that this should happen if we are to ensure that children who are working hard and achieving well are rewarded by being placed in the appropriate groups.

If you would like to discuss this further, please contact the relevant Director of Learning for your child's year group.

Year Group	DOL & DDOL	Email Address
Year 7	Mareca Laing (DoL) Daniel Kemp (DDoL)	Mareca.Laing@evelyngraceacademy.org Daniel.kemp@evelyngraceacademy.org
Year 8	Katherine Preston (DoL) John King (DDoL)	katherine.preston@evelyngraceacademy.org john.king@evelyngraceacademy.org
Year 9	Faith Anderson (DDoL) Maina Bragahi (Covering DOL)	faith.anderson@evelyngraceacademy.org maina.bragahi@evelyngraceacademy.org

I also wanted to update you on some new faces who have joined the team. Firstly, we have a new Director of Maths: Lazaros Vastavos, who joins us from Winchmore school in North London. Whilst Tamara Campbell will shortly depart on maternity leave, Danielle Bailey joins us and will act as second in charge in Maths. Both teachers have enjoyed great success at their previous schools and I look forward to seeing their contribution to Evelyn Grace. Abdullah Ahmed joins the science department as a very experienced teacher of Physics and finally, Damla Somnez will teach RE and Citizenship, whilst Lashana Hamilton is on maternity leave.

We had a fabulous first term and I hope you all had a chance to read our new-look school magazine: 'The Endeavour'. The second edition will be released at the end of this term and will give us a further chance to share all of the fabulous activities your children have been involved in.

With every good wish,

Yours sincerely

Tim Dainty
Principal
Ark Evelyn Grace Academy