

Start of Term September 2022

5th September 2022

Dear Parent/ Carer,

I hope you and your family have enjoyed a good summer break and that you have had an opportunity to enjoy the good weather.

We are very much looking forward to welcoming students back to school this week, and I am very excited to see the amazing things students will undoubtedly achieve this academic year. The summer has been busy in school with developments to the school site taking place, alongside planning and preparation for the new year.

Students who completed Year 11 and Year 13 earlier in the year celebrated our most successful ever set of examination results and we are incredibly proud of them. Their hard work, particularly with COVID having significantly impacted their examination courses, means they fully deserve the successes they enjoyed. For Year 11 this means that record numbers of students achieved the required grades and have successfully enrolled in Q6. Year 13 students have been highly successful in gaining places on their preferred courses, including those at Russell Group universities. We are now looking forward to helping current students in all Year Groups lay the foundations needed to ensure even greater success for themselves in future.

As I mentioned in my letter before the summer, this is also a new chapter for us as Quest, with Quest Primary opening this term. We know that Learning Changes Lives and we will be encouraging all students to work this year on developing the attributes required to LEARN throughout their time with us. These are outlined at the end of this letter, and I would encourage you to look at these with your child and discuss them together. We will be doing this in school and, as always, your support in reiterating these points is invaluable.


We are also grateful for your continued support in helping us, maintain our high standards, which are vital to help the smooth running of the school. I would particularly like to highlight the following areas:

- **Phones.** Our mobile phone expectations are clearly set out in the school's behaviour policy and in the student handbook. Mobile phones are not to be seen or heard for any reason at any time on the academy site. **This now extends after the last lesson, until students have left the glass gates.** The reason for this change is to provide clarity for students, staff and parents. If, in an emergency, students need to contact home (or you need to contact them) this will always be possible via reception. If phones are seen or heard, they will be confiscated for at least a week and cannot be collected early. Students know this rule and if their phone is confiscated they must accept it and learn from it.
- **Attendance.** The biggest single factor in determining outcomes for students is their level of attendance, please continue to ensure students arrive on time, on every possible day. The best place for a student to be on any given day is almost always in school, in their timetabled lesson and you help in achieving this is greatly appreciated. There are some changes to the way in which we follow up student absence so please be aware of this and look out for the communication from Mrs Dean outlining this.
- **Uniform.** Please ensure all students attend school in full school uniform as outlined in our uniform policy which can be found here [UNIFORM](#). In particular please note that students must be in proper

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school shoes, have hair in a natural colour, and wear a maximum one pair of small ear studs- no other piercings are permitted. **Students will not be admitted to the site if they have incorrect uniform.**

Another key change this academic year is that the school day will now run until 15.20pm on Wednesdays as well as Tuesdays and Thursdays.

We have also made some minor changes to the canteen. We are always looking for ways to help improve the experience of students and to do this we are introducing some new queuing systems to the canteen. Whilst this may take a little getting used to, I expect it to reduce the time students spend queuing at lunchtime. The canteen continues to be open before school from 7.45am for breakfast. To help reduce litter on site, all food purchased in the canteen must now be eaten in the canteen area and cannot be taken out or saved for later.

Key Dates

Please be aware of the following key dates in the first Half Term:

Date	Event
20 th September	Open Evening
28 th September	Y7 Settling in Evening
w/c 3 rd October	Key Stage 4 and 5 in-class assessments
4 th October	Key Stage 3 Awards Evening
5 th October	Key Stage 4 Awards Evening
11 th October	Q6 Open Evening
19 th October	Academy Day
21 st October	Last day of Half Term 1

Start of Term

Students should come into school for their first days at the times indicated below.

Date	Day	Students on Site	Activities
6 th September	Tuesday	Y7- 8.15am-2.30pm Y12- 9.30am-2.30pm	Y7 and Y12 Induction
7 th September	Wednesday	All from 8.10	All Students for full school day
8 th September	Thursday	All	Normal day
9 th September	Friday	All	Normal day

I hope you are as excited about the start of the new term as we are and the successes your children will enjoy. Your continued support for us as a school is vital, and we are truly grateful for the support we enjoy from you as parents/ carers. I very much look forward to seeing you during this year at celebration evenings, parents evenings, or other information events.

Your sincerely



Mr T. Beecham
Head of School



The Quest Academy believes that *Learning Changes Lives*. For this to happen, we all need to develop attributes and values which enable us to LEARN. This summary is to help remind us of these.

<p>L LEARNER</p> <p>To be a great learner you need to be curious to find out more.</p>	<p>YOU NEED TO:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> › Be curious; › Be independent; › Be a reader; › Be organised; › Have self-discipline; › Be proud of your learning and take ownership of it; › Ask for help when you need it; › Understand your own learning.
<p>E EMPOWERED</p> <p>To be empowered you need to have healthy self respect and respect for others.</p>	<p>YOU SHOULD:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> › Have great attendance (97.5% or more); › Always be punctual (to lessons and school); › Dress smart to feel smart; › Do the right thing; › Have confidence in yourself; › Help yourself, and those around you, to succeed; › Follow the classroom rules.
<p>A ASPIRATIONAL</p> <p>To be aspirational you need to aim to be the best you can possibly be.</p>	<p>YOU SHOULD:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> › Believe in yourself; › Make decisions which help you realise your potential; › Not limit yourself; › Explore your options and possibilities (find out about the world and jobs etc beyond your current experiences).
<p>R RESILIENT</p> <p>To be resilient you need to always try your hardest.</p>	<p>THIS MEANS:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> › Always giving everything; › Understanding that effort will always be rewarded; › Growing from your mistakes; › Never giving up; › Viewing failure as an important part of learning; › Understanding that you can always improve yourself.
<p>N NICE</p> <p>Being 'nice' is about showing great social responsibility.</p>	<p>THIS MEANS:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> › Celebrating diversity, in all its forms; › Treating others as you want to be treated; › Looking after your environment; › Being self-aware of your actions and responsibilities; › Being proud of your community and Quest Academy.