

SEPTEMBER ARRANGEMENTS 2023

17th July 2022

Dear Parent/ Carer,

As we enter the final week of the Academic Year, I am getting in touch to thank you for your continued support for us as a school, and also to inform you of some key practical information about the end of this term, and the start in September. This is very important- particularly regarding uniform- so please do read this carefully.

The year has been busy and hugely fulfilling for us as a school. I am very proud indeed of our students; they have had significant achievements in a range of areas. The hard work and progress shown by students- day in and day out- has been exceptional. Lessons have been focused and, speaking to students, they show a real and genuine pride in their learning. Above this, there has also been a wide range of opportunities for students to flourish outside the classroom including: trips for all, enrichment activities, the fantastic school production, sports teams & sports day amongst many others. The list goes on and on, but it has been a genuinely impressive year for the wonderful students of our school. In particular I would also highlight, the commitment to study shown by those taking public exams. This has been a great example to those in younger years and I very much look forward to celebrating with them as they receive their results in the summer.



I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for the support you offer us as families; we do not take it for granted. As we continue the development of the academy, this is something I am keen that we continue to foster and enhance. We know that families engaging fully with the life of the school can be a key driver for the success of our students so this really is important. There are a range of ways to engage- through your child's Tutor and House Team, through Parents Evenings, Curriculum Evenings, supporting at special events/ evenings or by becoming involved in the Quest Academy Parents Association (which I am very pleased to see developing very so well this year- [details on the website](#)). I will explain some of the opportunities we provide for this, and ways in which we will work to improve this further.

This year we have introduced a number of events and opportunities for parent/care engagement. The curriculum evenings in the autumn term in which we explained the curriculum we offer to students, and crucially why this is designed as it is, were very successful indeed. We will run these again next year, with the KS4 evening having a particular focus on helping your child study for their GCSEs. Parents' Evenings remain a vital part of how you receive detailed feedback on the progress of your child in different subjects. These are a mixture of online and in-person evenings and we will continue to monitor feedback from you, as parents and carers about which format you prefer. Currently this is

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mixed and that is why we have a blend of formats. Your attendance at these evenings has a very real and direct impact on the attainment of your child.

We have also moved into our “House Structure” this half term. Part of this system is to make it easier for parents to become involved in the life of the school, as you get to know a house team really well over a number of years (with siblings being in the same house too). As the new academic year begins, we will really embed this into everything we do, and you will receive letters separately from your House teams before we return, explaining how your child’s House will operate. I am particularly pleased to introduce Mr Peel (Head of Hillary who will be moving into the role from his current position as Team Leader of English), Mr Frith (Head of Shackleton) and Mr Kubilius (Head of Quest 6). Please see the diagram overleaf explaining who the key members of staff are in each house.

Our motto, “Learning Changes Lives”, is integral to all that we do. We treasure every minute of learning time, and I am grateful to you for ensuring students are in school and learning all the time. You will be familiar with our LEARN attributes, and know that we talk about these regularly. We know that students who consistently and confidently display these will be successful and will ultimately have greater control over what they are able to do with the rest of their lives. Part of this is about being Empowered- actively choosing to make decisions which are in our own best interests. This includes choosing to be on time to school- so all learning time is maximized, and choosing not to let little things like uniform get in the way of learning. I would urge you to look at the uniform policy carefully and make sure that, in September, your child comes to school in full uniform. Please see the bullet points below for more details.

Next year promises to be hugely exciting for us as a school. Our Houses will work hard to ensure we celebrate the wonderful successes of our students even more. We will be developing the way in which we do Enrichment and Academy Days to ensure all students get a real breadth of experience, and we will continue to refine and develop the wider curriculum too. In terms of extra-curricular activities, we will have inter- house competitions, even more music and drama, and will also be looking to launch our football academy – Teknika for Y12 students.

I hope you, and your children, enjoy a great summer break and I very much look forward to welcoming you back in September.

Practical Arrangements

End of Term- July 21st

We will have normal school days all week, although we will finish at 1.15pm on Friday. We will have normal lessons P1 - P4 on Friday, but period 5 will be used for lunch and to clear lockers and tidy Tutor Rooms.

Start of Term- September 5th & 6th

Students should come into school for their first days at the times indicated below. Please note that these Year Groups are those students will be going into in September, and not their current Year Groups.

| Date | Day | Students on Site | Activities |
|---------------------------|-----------|--|----------------------------------|
| 4 th September | Monday | None | INSET |
| 5 th September | Tuesday | Y7- 8.15am-2.30pm Y12- 8.45am- 3.20pm | Y7 and Y12 Induction |
| 6 th September | Wednesday | All | All Students for full school day |
| 7 th September | Thursday | All | Normal day |
| 8 th September | Friday | All | Normal day |

School Days

Students should be in school by **8.15am** ready to be in their Tutor Group lines by **8.20** each morning. School days finish at 3.20pm apart from on Mondays and Fridays, when they end at 2.30pm.

The school is open from 7:45am when students may have breakfast, use the Learning Resource Centre and have access to their lockers and form areas.

Key Stage 3 students have a separate break and lunch to those in Key Stages 4 and 5 in order to ensure all students can be served effectively. These times are indicated below:

| | Key Stage 3 | Key Stage 4 & 5 |
|----------------------|--|--|
| 8.20 - 8.40 | Tutor Time | Tutor Time |
| 8.40 - 9.30 | P1 | P1 |
| 9.30 - 10.20 | P2 | P2 |
| 10.20 - 11.30 | Break (10.20 - 10.40) | P3 (10.20 - 11.10) |
| | P3 (10.40 - 11.30) | |
| | | Break (11.10 - 11.30) |
| 11.30 - 12.20 | P4 | P4 |
| 12.20 - 13.40 | Lunch (12.20 - 12.50) | P5 (12.20 - 13.10) |
| | P5 (12.50 - 13.40) | |
| | | Lunch (13.10 - 13.40) |
| 13.40 - 14.30 | P6 | P6 |
| 14.30-15.20 | P7 (Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday) | P7 (Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday) |

Key Dates

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

| Date | Event |
|-----------------------------|---|
| 14 th September | Curriculum Evening (KS3 5-6pm, KS4 6-7pm) |
| 19 th September | Open Evening |
| 28 th September | Y7 Settling in Evening |
| w/c 2 nd October | Y12 5 week Assessment |
| 3 rd October | Q6 Open Evening |
| w/c 9 th October | Key Stage 4 and 5 mocks |
| 11 th October | Academy Day |
| 19 th October | Y10 Parents evening |

Reminders

Please ensure that you take the opportunity over the summer holidays to check that your son/daughter has all necessary items of school uniform and equipment for the new academic year. Some students can be tempted to make changes to their appearance (such extra piercings, or nail extensions) over the break. These must not prevent students wearing full school uniform when they return. A full uniform list is available on the school website [under the Uniform tab](#).

In addition to the uniform policy, please can you take particular care that student have:

- Correct shoes
- Correct Trousers or Skirt- as listed
- The correct tie
- Do not have any extra piercings (other than one simple stud in each ear)
- Do not have eye lash extensions or false eye lashes, nose studs, nail varnish or nail extensions of any kind

Please remember students are not permitted to use mobile phones on the school site. These must be switched off and out of sight by the time students come onto the premises. They are not allowed to be taken out again until students have left the site completely. If students need to contact you (or you need to contact them) during this must be done through the office or another member of staff. If a phone is heard or seen on site it will be confiscated for 1 week on the first occasion. This rule really does have a positive impact on student engagement and learning in school, and we do appreciate your support in maintaining our high standards.

Finally, I would like to thank you once again for the fantastic support we enjoy from you as parents/ carers. We really do appreciate it as it makes it possible for us to achieve so much more. I hope you have a fantastic break, and I look forward to building even greater successes in the new school year.

Your Sincerely



Mr T. Beecham
Head of School