

Dear Parents and Carers

Welcome back to the new academic year with a special welcome to our new Year 7s and their families. I hope you have managed to have your first normal summer for a few years – even though the weather was far from the typical wet British summer!

The summer results were pleasing with continued improvements in English and maths grade 4 and grade 5 passes. Our top achiever should be an inspiration to all of our students; Millie Woods attained 6 grade 9s and 3 grade 8s. The A Level average point score also improved with many of our students going off to university and some of them taking up apprenticeships.

We have been thinking about our Academy Action Plan for the new academic year to ensure we address the most recent Ofsted report and your feedback to the parent survey last year.

We will therefore have two key areas to focus upon:

Improving SEND provision

Improving the recording and quality of homework

We will be re-launching our homework strategy this week with homework booklets going home with all students. We have had two years of uncertainty and repeated lockdowns resulting in a lack of confidence over whether students have covered certain parts of the curriculum. Therefore our homework will be based upon checking that the key end points from the year before have been secured by students.

Every week homework will be set by the department to ensure it focuses on a key item that should have been learnt last year. You will see the dates in the booklet detailing which end point will be tested each week in each subject. In this way homework will be regular and purposeful. Departments will record homework on Edulink and set a task from whichever homework platform they have decided to use.

See below:

Department	Homework Platform
English	Seneca & GCSEPod
Maths	Mathswatch
Science	Educake
Humanities (history, RS, geography)	Seneca
Computing	GCSEPod
MFL	Set on Edulink
Arts	Showbie

I will write to you later in the term to see if you have noticed an improvement in the clarity of homework expectations.

The sad news of the Queen's death has affected us all. We have had many assemblies this week to commemorate her life of duty and service. **On Monday 19th September the Academy will be closed for the Queen's funeral which has been nominated a Bank Holiday.** Students should return on Tuesday 20th September at normal time.

Looking forward to an exciting new year!

Liz Furber
Executive Principal