



End of Term Newsletter - October 2020

As we move into the October half term break, I would like to reflect on our first term and how we have met our goal to come back stronger following the enforced period of home learning.

Over this term we have had many successes. We brought 1800 of our Hazeley family back into the building safely and securely. Our students successfully use the new one-way systems and have adapted to the staggered start and finish times, separate breaks, and lunchtimes. This has all been achieved whilst also making sure that everyone is safe in their bubbles.

Your children have dealt with these systems with a great level of maturity and have shown staff that they understand the reasons why we have put these controls in place.

Students have returned to learning in an excellent manner, showing positivity and resilience. We had three areas that we wanted to focus on when we returned to school in September:

- Assessing the depth of students' home learning
- Supporting students to make sense of their experiences during lock down
- Capitalising on the new skills that students had gained.

We have ensured that students have had a sense of normality in lessons, whilst continuing to support them to develop their home learning skills and understanding of Microsoft Teams for homework. Teachers have a clear understanding of what topics need to be revised and are working to address any misconceptions and deepen understanding.

We are impressed with the way students have adapted to wearing face coverings in communal areas, however after half term we would like to see an increase in the number of clean, washable face coverings rather than daily disposable ones, as these are better for the environment.

As cases of COVID-19 are increasing nationally, we will be relentless in monitoring and adapting our plans to ensure we can keep everyone as safe as we possibly can whilst they are in the building.

Since our return to school we have been using 'outside corridors' and have encouraged students to navigate their way to lesson using the outside of the building to avoid congestion within the corridors inside the building. To support with this, we will be altering our uniform expectations slightly. Students will now be able to wear their coats in the corridors when moving to and from lesson as this will alleviate congestion at the doors where they were previously expected to take them off.



When in the classroom, students will still be expected to be in their correct uniform. As the weather becomes colder, coupled with the fact that windows will be open to help with the airflow, students are encouraged to wear a plain black V-neck jumper underneath their blazer. Hoodies are not part of the school uniform and students will be expected to remove them. This will be reviewed again at Christmas. Whilst the differences between us make us stronger, our uniform unites us.

We have a dedicated COVID-19 mobile phone number, that is available outside of normal school hours, if you do want to report a positive test result. The number is 07387064221. This will also be available over the half term break.

Some successes this term that I would like to share are:

- Our effective track and trace system was implemented twice this term for our two positive cases, with no further outbreaks occurring within the Academy.
- The Hazeley parent portal on Facebook has grown and we now have over 800 members - [Click this link to join!](#)
- We welcomed the BBC into the Academy to showcase how a school can continue to flourish and move forward positively at this difficult time.
- Seven outgoing Year 13 students were awarded scholarships to the London Institute of Banking and Finance as they achieved results in the top 1% of the country.
- We celebrated black history month, led by our amazing Equality Group. We have had events and awareness initiatives as well as deep work diversifying our curriculum for all. We also appeared on BBC news to showcase the work we are doing.
- We have developed our blended learning approach so students can continue working if they need to self-isolate.
- We had a very successful international day of languages with challenges and competitions. The video to celebrate this was shared with all and highlighted that within the Academy our students and staff speak over 70 different languages!
- Our Ed Talks for Year 7, 8 and 9 have continued to engage groups of students.
- Our Year 13 students responded superbly to their first set of mock exams.
- Year 9 and 12 students have made an earnest start to their new courses.
- Year 7 are so well settled that it feels like they have been with us for years!
- We have capitalised on students' technological skills acquired through lockdown to enhance systems for everyone. Our first ever virtual Year 11 parents evening was an immense success with both staff and parents recommending that the virtual evenings should continue.
- Over 125 students within Year 10 are completing their Duke of Edinburgh bronze expedition in a COVID-19 safe environment this week.



- Over 45 Year 7 students have completed the bike-ability course ensuring they are now riding more safely as they use their bikes in the local community.
- Our staff have continued to share and develop their skills through our partnership with Shenley Brook End School, as part of the 5 Dimensions Trust.

After half term we will continue to enhance the provision and service we offer our students by the reintroduction of some extracurricular activities including:

- Netball club
- Chess club
- Study hub facilities for Year 11
- Film making club
- Subject support clubs
- Textiles
- Table tennis

Plus many more! Students must pre book a place at the clubs they wish to attend by emailing the club leader – details can be found on the enrichment timetable [here](#). Please note that if a student books but doesn't attend, we may offer the place to another student.

We will also be restarting our school council so that students can help shape the way in which the Academy continues to grow and develop.

Next term, we look forward to preparing students for assessments, both formal mock exams for Year 11 and in-class assessments for all other year groups. We continue to work to develop students' active learning skills (Magenta) together with their own metacognition and oracy skills. In mastering these three areas, our aim is to create expert learners.

Friday 23rd October is staff inset day, I wish you a restful October half term break, and look forward to seeing you back on 2nd November and the opportunities that the Christmas term will bring us all.

Finally, I would like to thank you sincerely as parents and carers, for supporting the Academy in the way you do and continuing to work with us. We are always so grateful for your positive comments, words of support and understanding. We are not perfect and are always looking to enhance the educational provision for our students and we relish your comments and feedback.

Regards

Toni Whiteman
Senior Deputy Principal