



11<sup>th</sup> November 2021

Dear Parents/ Carers,

We hope that your child has had an enjoyable and productive start to this final term of 2021. We hope that the updates and reminders below help you to support them to get the most out of the rest of it

### Important message - Online Safety

There is currently a national trend taking place whereby teachers and staff are being rated and abused online. Sadly, Milton Keynes is no different with TikTok accounts being created for many local schools where teachers and staff are being subjected to what is, at a minimum, hurtful content, to others being openly abused. We are working with TikTok to have the content removed but would advise those following the accounts to consider the impact they are having on their teachers by viewing, sharing and therefore encouraging some of this content. As a school we tried to go over and above during lockdown to support those in our community, for some of the videos and messages produced to be used in this fashion is hugely disappointing and certainly not in the Hazeley spirit. [TikTok Parent/Carer Need to know](#)

We would advise those engaging with this content to consider their actions, the impact they may have and whether they want to be following accounts of this type. Please check your child's online account and remove any such following. Should you have anything to report in relation to this, please contact [antibullying@thehazeleyacademy.com](mailto:antibullying@thehazeleyacademy.com)

### Year Group specific messages

#### Year 7 Bikability

We are pleased to be able to offer Bikeability again this year for our year 7 students. Bikeability is a cycle training programme for students to learn practical skills and understanding about how to cycle safely on our roads. Students who have done a Bikeability course at primary school are welcome to apply again to do the training at Hazeley to learn safe practices when cycling on the road. We have two dates which are 11 – 15 February and again on 16 – 18 February. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at [lmckenzie@thehazeleyacademy.com](mailto:lmckenzie@thehazeleyacademy.com) and more information will follow shortly.

#### Year 11 PPE - important update

Year 11 start their PPEs on the week beginning 13<sup>th</sup> December 2021. Can we ask that all Year 11 parents read the attached information concerning arrangements for Y11 over this time. [Year 11 PPE Update](#)



## General messages

### Covid Testing

As we now have a significant percentage of the school vaccinated and we are picking up less in school positive results each week, we will be changing our in-school testing protocols from Monday 15<sup>th</sup> November. We will continue to test students during form time; however this will change to Mondays only. **Please can students test at home on a Wednesday evening or Thursday morning.** This will allow us to regain some curriculum time on Thursdays. Thank you for your ongoing support in working with us to keep the Hazeley community safe.

### Vaccinations

On Tuesday we had the school nursing team in who successfully vaccinated all the students who had consented to be vaccinated amongst our 12- to 15-year-olds.

If you would like your child to have the vaccine please either book online using this link [click here](#) , or there are several local walk in centres where you do not need an appointment further information can be found [here](#) .

### Uniform update

We feel strongly that the diversity and differences in our community make us richer while the consistency of our uniform and dress code bring us together.

We always need to balance this consistency with the comfort and safety of our students. As the weather becomes colder and we maintain the ventilation in classrooms we are encouraging students to wear multiple layers of clothing. They may also wear coats in corridors and classrooms with the teacher's permission. Please help us with ensuring that students do not attend school with facial piercings and continue to attend school with at least two face coverings (one acts as a spare) as these are still required as students move around the building at social times and in between lessons.

### Feedback from Parental Tours

Around 30 Y6 parents took us up on the offer to tour Hazeley during the school day. As always openness and transparency were at the heart of what we shared, with families being encouraged to visit the areas of the school which interested them most.

As parents you will be pleased that the feedback was excellent, with all of the parents that completed the surveys agreeing or strongly agreeing with all of the statements below

- Hazeley has warm and welcoming atmosphere
- The children are happy and focussed on learning
- Hazeley is restorative
- The children enjoy a broad range of subjects
- Children enjoy a broad range of extracurricular and community activities



We hope to offer tours for existing parents in the new year, earlier if covid restrictions allow. We do hope that as many of you as possible will join us. We will never pretend that what you will see will be perfect, but you will see some great things, which are getting better all the time.

### **National Anti-Bullying week 15<sup>th</sup> to 19<sup>th</sup> November**

Hazeley will be supporting the national Anti-Bullying week this year and the key message is 'one kind word'. One kind word can provide a moment of hope. It can be a turning point or change someone's perspective. One kind word usually leads to another. Kindness fuels kindness. At Hazeley there will be several activities to highlight anti bullying, including tutor activities, lead lessons, subject based activities.

We have a dedicated email address that is displayed on all computers and can be accessed at any time [ab@thehazeleyacademy.com](mailto:ab@thehazeleyacademy.com) or if you are worried about a student or friend you can use [worried@thehazeleyacademy.com](mailto:worried@thehazeleyacademy.com).

One thing we have worked on with students is to ask them who are their top 3 members of staff they could turn to if they were worried about something. At home, please ask your sons and daughters who this is. If you have any concerns over bullying, don't hesitate to contact the Progress Leader or form tutor in the first instance.

### **Curriculum Focus: Art**

In the first of our curriculum subject series, we are going to focus on one of our Creativity subjects.

Art is a consistently popular subject at GCSE and A level amongst our students and we start this in Years 7 and 8 by developing students understanding and use of the elements of design through a range of 2D and 3D experiences. Art as a subject develops not just fine motor skills, an eye for detail but also how to research and analyse, work with independence and how to think laterally, all of which are transferable skills. The department also reaches out into the Academy Community through displays and support for cultural events such as Diwali and Remembrance Day. The Art Ambassador scheme introduced over lockdown empowers senior students to support students in Art in lower year groups and the blended learning scheme means students select from a range of online experiences and then review and report back to their peers on it. We are already Artsmark Gold accredited and are in the application process of moving this to platinum, something we can do due to our involvement in initiatives outside of school such as MAKE (Milton Keynes Art Education) and the MK Cultural Festival. We are passionate about the part that Art plays in providing students with Cultural Capital and promoting their Creativity and its use in all areas.

### **National Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) Review**

If your child has SEND needs, you may be interested in the open letter to all parents are careers and young people from the Children's and Families Minister Will Quince. It can be accessed [here](#)



## Careers Week and Unifrog

The week beginning the 22<sup>nd</sup> of November sees our next Careers week in the Academy, where we overtly share some of the links between not only the content that students are studying in lessons, but also the skills that they are developing that will support them in the world of work. There will also be a series of lead lessons to Years 7 to 11 where this transferability of knowledge and skills will be emphasised, along with a launch of a Unifrog house competition. You will receive a separate communication about Unifrog and how you can support your child to use it on a continuing basis to understand their potential career paths and opportunities. If you could have a conversation with your child whilst looking at Unifrog during the Careers week, that would be very supportive in emphasising this important area of our curriculum.

## Safety first – cycling at night

The resources below will help remind children, including teenagers, about road safety and keeping safe in the dark now the early evenings are becoming darker.

Safety First – Cycling at Night <https://www.cycletraining.co.uk/cycle-training-and-cycle-safety/safety-first-cycling-at-night/>

Keeping Children Safe in the Dark <https://firstaidforlife.org.uk/keeping-children-safe-in-dark/>

Dark Nights <https://www.childcare.co.uk/information/dark-nights-children-safety>

Be Bright Be Seen <https://brightkidz.co.uk/initiatives/be-bright-be-seen/>

Thank you for working with us.

Miss Whiteman  
Senior Deputy