

9<sup>th</sup> December 2021

Dear Parents/Carers

Thank you for supporting the academy by taking the time to read our important academy communications. This edition contains term date reminders, year group specific notices and general important updates and reminders.

### **Year Group Specific Messages**

#### **Year 11 study leave**

Year 11 will commence study leave for their PPE's from Monday 13<sup>th</sup> December until Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> January inclusive, unless they have an external examination in their subject in January and then lessons in this subject will continue. Students need to be in the building ready for their PPE's for 8.45am and 1.15pm each day. The study hub will be available for silent revision if they cannot get home in between their exams. As they will not be attending form during this time, can we ask that they continue testing at home to keep the year group safe as they do these PPE's.

#### **Year 11 revision books**

We are starting to use a fantastic book in form time with Year 11 which has lots of useful revision tips and strategies in preparation for the examinations. If your child would like to have a copy to use at home, we have been able to secure a big reduction in cost from the suppliers if we place a bulk order. The book is **CGP 'How to revise'** and it should be £4.95 but through parent pay we can purchase for you for £2.00. If you would like to purchase one for your child, please place the order on parent pay by 13<sup>th</sup> December.

### **Important Messages**

#### **End of Term Arrangements**

The Academy will close at 1:15pm on Friday 17<sup>th</sup> December for the Christmas period. Students return after the Christmas holiday on Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> January 2022. (Staff inset day on Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> January 2022).

#### **Non-uniform Day**

We are delighted to be supporting our Hazeley House charities with a non-uniform day on the last day of term. The House charity for Cobra is the RSPCA, Colossus is Teenage Cancer Trust, Enigma is MK Young Carers and Victory is MK Hospital Trust. All donations for non-uniform day will be split between the four House charities. As we are now cashless in school, please can all suggested £1 donations be made via Parent Pay. Please remind your child that non-uniform clothing should be appropriate, here is a general guide:

1. Clothes should be school appropriate. No crop tops or off the shoulder tops.
2. Due to health and safety reasons jewellery, make-up and flip flops are not permitted.
5. Clothing should allow for normal comfortable movement around the school so should be properly fitting clothes and footwear that does not contain a heel. Students will also need their school bag with their equipment for lessons.

#### **Covid Testing**

Please can we ask that you continue testing your child twice a week over the Christmas break. We will conduct whole school testing on Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> January on the morning of the students return.

### **School reception**

We greatly value and appreciate the support we get from parents and carers to improve our students' attendance, and we are especially grateful for the efforts made to arrange medical appointments at times that least disrupt the school day. We appreciate that this is not always possible, as the current restrictions limit the number of appointments available. However, it is very important that we are notified in advance (even if this is the same day) of such appointments.

Please call **01908 555620** and ask for Attendance, or email [attendance@thehazeleyacademy.com](mailto:attendance@thehazeleyacademy.com). Voicemail messages **before the day of the appointment** can be left on 01908 555633. The reception team have had an increase in students needing to leave at short notice, and parents/carers arriving to collect students for appointments that the attendance officer is unaware of. Thank you for understanding that we will not allow a student to leave during the day without a parent/carer coming into reception to sign them out.

### **Mobile phones and devices.**

Just to make you aware, we are consulting staff and students about the use of mobile phones and devices in schools for the new term. Our current stance is that they are not allowed in lessons and only permitted to be used during social times in the canteen and playground, but we are considering a complete ban of phone/devices at all times of the day from the moment they arrive until 3.15pm. If you have any strong views about this, we invite you to share these through emailing [enquiries@thehazeleyacademy.com](mailto:enquiries@thehazeleyacademy.com)

### **Parent pay**

Please can all parents/carers check that your child has sufficient funds on their parent pay account to make sure that they will be able to purchase food from the canteen when we return on the 5<sup>th</sup> January 2022.

### **General messages**

#### **Teaching and Learning Routines**

Please support your child to develop excellent routines to ensure learning is a priority. This includes preparing equipment and completing homework. Homework, revision, and extended learning are essential in securing depth of knowledge and skills, particularly following lockdown. Homework assignments are listed on your child's Microsoft Teams, and you should receive a weekly email digest explaining which assignments are due. If your child is finding homework a challenge, please email their tutor or email Mrs Williamson - [gwilliamson@thehazeleyacademy.com](mailto:gwilliamson@thehazeleyacademy.com)

#### **Curriculum Focus: Drama**

As you can probably imagine, Drama was particularly hard hit by lockdowns with its emphasis on group work and non-verbal communication. Our Drama team worked hard to continue to engage and stretch students by widening the curriculum to look beyond just the performance, to look at areas such as lighting, costumes, and settings. Since returning to in school teaching and seeing how well students threw themselves into these new areas, the curriculum in Drama has maintained this breadth of study and incorporated an understanding of the vast range of careers that are linked to Drama. Our students have enjoyed having virtual presentations from professionals to further their appreciation of the subject and our Year 12 students have been displaying our Hazeley Values of Contribution and Community by supporting and working with our younger year groups. This year we will also be working hard on the whole school production of The Little Shop of Horrors.

### **We Love Feedback**

We hope that you agree that we are all part of something very special at Hazeley. Just as we want to work with you to help your child grow into the best version of themselves, we hope that you will work with us to help Hazeley grow into the best school it possibly can be.

To help this we wanted to take a moment to remind you how much we value your feedback and how you can give it.

Details on how to contact staff can be found on contact section of the website [here](#).

**Praise** – One of the best ways to encourage good things to keep happening is to email praise to the relevant member of staff. Feel free to CC: [Enquiries@thehazeleyacademy.com](mailto:Enquiries@thehazeleyacademy.com) who will pass this on to senior staff if appropriate.

**Suggestions to improve** – If you have an idea on how we might improve things then feel free to email the relevant member of staff and if you feel appropriate CC: in The PA to the Principal, Miss Cooke [pathtotheprincipal@thehazeleyacademy.com](mailto:pathtotheprincipal@thehazeleyacademy.com)

**Concerns and complaints** – Details of how to share a concern or make a complaint can be accessed through the school website [here](#) or by emailing Miss Cooke [pathtotheprincipal@thehazeleyacademy.com](mailto:pathtotheprincipal@thehazeleyacademy.com)

**Parent Surveys** – At key points in the year we undertake more formal parent surveys, this allows us to compare our progress over time and with other schools, your participation is deeply valued, and we always share the headlines. Thank you for playing your part in helping grow our vibrant community of exceptional people, we will never claim to be perfect, and we will always be thirsty to improve.

### **Eco - committee**

The Hazeley Eco Committee are collecting used up dental care products e.g. old toothbrushes, empty toothpaste tubes, empty floss packs to be recycled - leading to donations for charity, via Charity Recycling MK. Please send any such products in via your child to be handed to their form tutor.

### **Duke of Edinburgh**

This has been a fantastic term for students signing up for their Duke of Edinburgh Bronze award, we are looking forward to all of our students completing this and PE lessons have now started with their expedition skills. Students should now be organising the sections - volunteering, skills and physical. Examples for volunteering include helping with after school clubs, reading with younger siblings, doing a Park Run, helping neighbours e.g. gardening, car cleaning. Skills examples include martial arts club, sewing, baking, joining a dance club. Physical skills include extending cycle rides and improving times, improving general fitness, through running or other sports. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Miss O'Sullivan - [MO'Sullivan@thehazeleyacademy.com](mailto:MO'Sullivan@thehazeleyacademy.com)

### **5Cs Passport**

Year 7 and Year 8 have a 5Cs Passport in their planners and are well underway with completing these. Please can parents continue to check their progress and there will be lots of opportunities over the break to complete some of the activities e.g. cooking a meal for the family, volunteering to help clean the car etc. The 5Cs Passport is an important element of developing our young people into the best they can be and supporting their community.

### **MK Foodbank**

With many thanks for the kind donations, we are currently receiving for the MK Foodbank. These are the items that the foodbank is currently asking for: Biscuits, cereal, jam, peanut butter, long life fruit juice, long life milk, pasta sauce, tinned fruit, tinned tomatoes, dried rice (500g or 1kg packets) and anything that is Christmas themed.

### **Volunteer coordinators wanted for Food Larder**

We are hoping to work with SOFEA to set up a community larder. In essence a community larder can be looked at as a help up as opposed to a handout. Families pay a small weekly fee to access quality food that might otherwise go to waste, so as well as helping their pockets they are also helping the environment.

To make this vision become a reality we are looking for a team of adult volunteer coordinators to work with our 6th form students and pastoral team from 2.30-5pm on Wednesdays. All volunteers will receive training and undergo safeguarding checks.

If you want to find out more about SOFEA community larders, then click here <https://www.sofea.uk.com/purpose-projects/community-larder/> and if you are interested potentially volunteering at Hazeley please email Mrs Harvey [SHarvey@thehazeleyacademy.com](mailto:SHarvey@thehazeleyacademy.com)

We hope to start the project in the spring.

May we take this opportunity to wish you and your family a peaceful, enjoyable and safe Christmas time.

Kind regards,

Miss T Whiteman