



21 May 2021

Dear Parent/Carer

Covid-19, SSLT appointments, Sixth form induction, Academic and Work-Related Learning Awards, Year 6 transition, Medical data collection, Trousers from our main supplier, appointment of staff to new roles

Covid-19

I am becoming aware of some schools beginning to open up their site to allow more flow of students to lessons, allowing somewhat of a return to some form of normal. I intend to allow Years 10 and 12 greater access to some of our specialist facilities from after half term and have further plans for a wider reopening of the site if the government keeps to the plan of a 21 June full reopening. I will publish further details next week in full.

Other than that, it has, for once, been a quiet week in terms of Covid. That is something that I haven't written in almost 15 months.....

If any parents have any other concerns related to Covid-19 in school, please contact us at the Academy using the email address COVID@srpa.co.uk.

SSLT appointments

It is always a privilege to be involved in appointing members of our Student Senior Leadership Team and yesterday was no exception. The current Year 12 are a truly remarkable bunch and I feel immensely privileged to have them all in the sixth form here at SRPA. The morning was spent interviewing 13 hopeful candidates and the field was perhaps the best I have ever known.

I won't spoil the process by sharing the results here but all candidates will know the decision during period 5 today. Feel free to check out our social media accounts for updates on this.

Sixth Form Induction

Mr Griffiths intends to publish full details of this two day event **today**. I am looking forward to this and, when all new Year 12 students see what we have in store, I hope they will be equally up for the challenge.

Academic and Work-Related Learning Awards

On Tuesday, I had the pleasure of presenting our awards from last year. We have waited until a suitable time because of Covid and, although it was a muted affair in comparison with normal years, I was so proud of all of our students right across the Academy as we heard tales of incredible academic performance and exceptional drive in the workplace on experience placements. Youngsters often get a bad reputation for leaving school without manners and without the right skills. We aim to ensure that is not a fair representation of students at SRPA and this week has been testament to that hard work. Particular thanks must go to Mrs Todd who is the very reason we have Platinum Careers Mark.

Year 6 transition

We are currently planning to have students visit the Academy later on in term 6. We have almost finalised these plans and will be in a position to share this with you soon so that you are aware of when your child will be invited to join us if they are joining a sibling. This will be an exciting day to look forward to as it will give your child the chance to see our Academy in action and meet some of the key members of staff they will be working with in September and beyond.

Behind the scenes our House team have begun a preparation to welcome your child into one of our 5 Houses; Lancaster, Stuart, Tudor, Windsor and York. Every student will be allocated to a House where, alongside their R2L tutor, the House team will be there to support with any pastoral and/or behaviour issues.

We will keep you updated on which House your child has been allocated along with information on the pastoral team who will be there ready to help the transition to our Academy. The House teams are excited to work with you, look out for their video welcomes coming soon to our website.

Medical data collection

Thank you to all parents who have already returned the MS Form below related to existing medical conditions. If you have not yet returned the form below for your child and intend to, I would be grateful if you would complete the following MS Form for your child if they have a medical condition. I appreciate that we may have this information already but it would be extremely helpful to receive a new submission as our form has changed and the questions we are asking are different to in the past. Thank you for your understanding. The form can be found here: <https://forms.office.com/r/EYLDPmPxm5>



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“This is a calm, happy and caring school.”

Trousers from our main supplier

After a steady stream of contact with parents regarding not being able to source trousers, I have had a fruitful conversation with uniform direct where they have said they are able to arrange trousers for different fits and now have some with elasticated waist and adjustors. The manager would encourage parents to speak to one of the team rather than just to buy off the shelf as they are keen and happy to help. They are currently arranging a 58" chest blazer and 56" waist trouser for a pupil at another school (by way of exemplification).

Appointment of staff to new roles

After a very long day and a lengthy selection process on Wednesday including the Governing Body, I am delighted to inform you that Mrs Gilbert has been appointed as our new Deputy Head Teacher from 1 September. This is a second Deputy role and is a direct result of our exponential growth as an Academy.

Mrs Gilbert will lead on the elements of the Ofsted framework that Mrs Spoors does not have in her portfolio.

In addition, Mr Ward will also be promoted to the new position of Senior Assistant Head Teacher responsible for Infrastructure, effective 1 September. This new post will support the Academy's growth strategy over time and is designed to underpin our exponential rise in pupil numbers and the impact this has on the Academy.

I am sure you will join me in warmly congratulating them both.

You may have seen some unhelpful headlines in the press this week along with some misleading and factually inaccurate comments and posts as a result. I remain proud of what we do here in ensuring that this Academy steadfastly keeps youngsters safe, becomes the local school of choice, serves its community well for generations and ensures that youngsters leave us as balanced young adults with some excellent grades and skills to allow them to progress. For all of those goals to be achieved, I will need to take difficult decisions from time to time and I will continue to do so where it is necessary without fear or favour. You need to be able to rely on me in any coming storm to pack up the sail and ride on through it. I am going to do exactly that. In the words of American businessman Roy Disney "It's not hard to make decisions when you know what your values are."



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I will write again soon.

Yours faithfully



Mr D Hardy
Head Teacher



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