



25 June 2021

Dear Parent/Carer

Covid-19, Examinations 2021 – external quality assurance, PD Day – 30 June, Year 12 induction, Transition into Year 7 this summer, new class teachers from next week

I hope my weekly letter finds you well at the end of what has been a busy week preparing for Year 12 induction, PD Day and the submission of our externally requested evidence for examination candidates. More about all of this below:

Covid-19

Last week, I explained that we had paused our opening up plans prior to the end of term due to the government announcement recently. This position remains but we will be holding covid-secure sports day events during the last three days of term.

I await the DfE's position on our September opening and understand that high level discussions and planning are taking place in order to update schools on the government's thinking soon. I will let you know our plans once I am in receipt of anything new.

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.

Examination 2021 – external quality assurance

The examination boards have now received our grades and this week has been spent submitting requested evidence from some subjects at GCSE, BTec and A level. All are strong samples and evidence bases so I am hopeful that our judgements will be upheld in the summer.

PD Day – 30 June

For our final Personal Development Day of this academic year, we are focussing heavily on as many practical activities and opportunities as we can whilst having a focus on careers and also the environment. Students will spend the majority of the day accessing a wide variety of sessions predominantly with their R2L tutor as part of the pastoral recovery plan.

All of our key stage 3 year groups will have a one hour session focussing on our Fundraising Challenge involving a number of physical activities, whilst supporting a healthier lifestyle. All of our students will also have the opportunity to experience life through the eyes of some of our young carers in our SRPA Voices session. We have continued this based on the success of our initial SRPA Voices session from the previous personal development day focussing on one of our Muslim students.

The large majority of the programme for Year 7 will involve the Transition Challenge, where they will create a resource to support our new Year 6 cohort with advice about their transition. They will also be learning about the Mexican Day of the Dead in a languages based activity.

A special mention needs to go out to our Aspiration Ambassadors too. They are a group of students recruited in Year 7 who help support raise the aspirations of our Year 7 cohort. They have planned an Aspiration Bonkers Quiz and have drafted me in to present the trophy they have created for this activity. We are already proud of their efforts in such a short time in post.

Year 8 will have the chance to take part in a 'design your own guitar' session. We have an expert joining us to support our students to develop their design skills. Student will also be developing their understanding of British Values too.

Our Year 9 cohort will be taking part in an Environmental Challenge where they will investigate and plan how to make our academy more environmentally friendly. They will further develop their mathematical problem solving skills in the problem called 'The Bridges of Königsberg'.

Year 10 students will have a number of opportunities to investigate and explore future careers in our virtual workwise session. Students have been asked about careers and vocations they are interested in and we have sourced visitors who will present information and facilitate question and answer sessions. They will also be taking part in the Festival Challenge, where they will use their enterprise skills to reduce the environmental impact of a festival by looking at recycling. They will also have a full afternoon of enrichment, including House rounders and football competitions, as well as other engaging physical activities such as frisby golf.

Our Key Stage 5 students will be involved in clinics to support the writing of personal statements for university applications or covering letters and CVs. We have a number of universities and employers who will support this process. The students have also expressed a desire to support our younger students and will be volunteering to support in some of the younger year group sessions in the afternoon.



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"This is a calm, happy and caring school."

Year 12 induction

Next week, we hold our Year 12 induction for the new cohort joining the sixth form. Firstly, a huge welcome from me! We genuinely wish you all the best of luck. Life in the sixth form is very different to life in the main school and the same can be said of induction. Mr Griffiths has already communicated his plans but we hope that all new sixth formers take part in their taster sessions, complete their transition work and enjoy the team building!

Transition into Year 7 this summer

At the time of writing, we have heard that most secondaries locally have cancelled their transition events in light of the government announcement not to open up from 21 June. As a result, we have received some queries about our plans. We never intended to run a 'normal' large transition event where all new Year 7 pupils visit us on the same day. Instead, we are keeping our Year 6 visitors in their usual school bubbles with covid-secure taster sessions planned, usually outdoors. Mr Adlington and I have risk assessed our approach and feel we can safely continue to host these events at this current time. If anything changes we will, of course, postpone or cancel but, for now, we crack on unabated. You know me by now in terms of covid and being cautiously risk averse. If it can't happen it won't but we are a go as we speak.

Plans for Year 6 pupils to visit the Academy during the week beginning 5 July have been shared this week by Mr Adlington. If you have any questions about this please do not hesitate to contact us via our dedicated email address transition@srpa.co.uk.

New class teachers from next week

We have a policy of bringing in any new teachers for September as early as we can in order to support their induction. With this in mind, we see a huge influx of high calibre teachers next week who will begin their journey with us. We have recruited well this year and will see a significant number of new practitioners across the Academy but especially in English, mathematics and science. This is simply because of our continued rapid growth, especially into Year 7 where we remain full next year with a waiting list. I look forward to welcoming them and I am sure that our youngsters will work well with them.

As the summer approaches and we look forward to some good weather and time outside, I always look to the summer as a time of greater relaxation and contemplation in preparation for September. Then I remember that this term is incredibly hectic in planning for that time and come down to earth with a bump as we work longer days to fit everything in and to make sure we are ready for results days! So, in the words of Benjamin Franklin, it is wise to remember that "Energy and persistence conquer all things."



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Have a lovely weekend when it comes.

I will write again soon.

Yours faithfully



Mr D Hardy
Head Teacher



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