

6 November 2020

Dear Parents and Carers

ACADEMY FRIDAY UPDATE 7

I hope that you are all keeping well and staying safe in these difficult and complex times. Can I reassure you that the Academy is functioning normally and is keen to provide stability and routine while the country is in lockdown. I am so impressed with our staff team who are showing such integrity and commitment to providing high levels of support beyond the normal responsibilities of their posts. Mental health, wellbeing and food parcels are available for those in need. I want to reassure you all that we are standing right beside you and are ready to support in any way possible. We recognise that many of our families are having significant challenges in these trying times.

It seems strange to be leading the Academy in my first full academic year when all this disruption is happening nationally and worldwide. We are continuing to focus on giving every child the very best education and to wrap around them a support climate of normality while life outside is so restricted. I assure you that within the building children are sticking to the Covid routines and having positive and engaging learning experiences. Thank you sincerely for your messages of encouragement and support and for feedback on how we can further improve.

A huge thank you for your continued support in sending your child into school with a mask. There has been a marked reduction in those turning up without this essential equipment. We will continue to send students back for their masks after contacting home if they do not come to school prepared and safe for learning. The safety of every child and staff member continues to be our unwavering priority. We commend our students for their maturity and responsibility around the academy. Please remind them of the necessary behaviours outside during this lockdown, as they must not be in large groups as per Government guidelines.

Warmest wishes



Catherine Davies
Executive Principal

Additional updates from around the Academy

Safeguarding

It has been great to see our students back after the half term break.

Whilst our students will be continuing to attend school over the coming weeks, we are aware that there will be significant periods of time when our students are isolating still within the family home including evenings and weekends. For many students this will include increased time on social media and their computers.

Our Safeguarding and Parent Information and Support sections on the website contain up-to-date links for advice for our students and parents/carers. This includes a new document for parents/carers on how to be aware of

online harmful sexual behaviours and the risks for young people. This has been produced by the Marie Collins Foundation and is available directly at the link below:

https://www.mariecollinsfoundation.org.uk/assets/news_entry_featured_image/NWG-MCF-Parents-Leaflet.pdf

In the meantime, please feel free to contact the Safeguarding Team at the academy if you require any further information or advice.

Trudy Hillman
Senior Leadership for Safeguarding

Art & Photography

It has been a very busy few days received over 200 creative the half term. Here are a few; my present these on our website in



part of the Music and Drama Remembrance service, a true collaboration of the 'Arts'.

in Art department this week, I have responses to my Art Challenge I set over plan is to make a virtual exhibition and time for 11 November 2020. I hope that some of these amazing responses will be



Just to wet your appetite, next week we are completing the Photography & Art exams, five and ten hours each - we wish our year 11 artists good luck with their creations and next week we will celebrate their creations.

Mrs Watts
Director of Arts

Child Development

Year 10 students are working hard to meet the deadline for their first piece of coursework. This has been a new challenge for them and I am proud of how well they have worked. We have also been looking at ways to improve literacy skills to gain maximum marks in coursework and assessments. Special mention to Holli S and Desta B for their verbal contributions during discussions.

Year 9 students are learning about the development of senses and will be designing a sensory board. Special mention to Lianna F and Safiyya L for their contributions in class and for their well answered assessment questions.

Mrs Deepröse
Head of Child Development

Computer Science

Year 7 have been developing their programming skills this week in Scratch. Year 8 are looking at computer intelligence and how to create a convincing chatbot. There is further information about this in their knowledge organisers. Year 9 have been learning to convert backwards and forwards between binary and denary. Year 10 have started to look at system security and the threats to computer systems. Year 11s have their mock exams this week so we wish them luck with these.

All GCSE students (year 9, 10 and 11) should now be completing weekly revision. For year 9 and 10 this will mean revisiting the learning they have done so far in lessons. Parents/carers can help with this by asking their child to teach them what they have learnt or by testing them on key words from their books.

A big well done to Kristopher H and Jackson J for completing one of the challenges in the knowledge organiser.

Mrs Morris

Head of Computer Science

Engineering and Technology



A new term brings on a new set of skills to learn and master for the 'Young Engineers' and as we head towards Christmas, be prepared for some homemade Christmas gifts and stocking fillers.

It has been wonderful to see the students enjoying the opportunity to be creative and develop new skills in the workshop whilst working so sensibly with all the tools and machinery - using extremely sharp chisels for the first time with a class is always a worry!

Young Engineers prize of the week go to.... Hamish L and Grace S for their incredible housing joints!



Mr Fallows, our resident expert carpenter, is quoted as saying "these housing joints are some of the best I have seen for students of this age, they are such a tight and neat fit it is as if they have been made by professionals"

Well done every one!

Mr Tumi

Engineering & Technology

Geography

What an amazing start to a very different term! Year 7 have moved on to look at extreme environments where they will investigate two contrasting areas, year 8 have started to look at how places around the world compare in terms of development, and year 9 are finishing off looking at rainforests. Year 10 are continuing to investigate desert environments and moving on to resource management and year 11 are in the middle of their mock exams.

Star students:

- Emily K - year 10 – for a continual high standard of work
- Cat H – year 10 – for continual high standards of work

Mrs Megit
Head of Geography

Maths

After a restful half term for Maths students and staff it is straight back into a busy work of Maths learning for all.

The first few weeks of this term include exciting topics where Year 7 will be developing their Numerical understanding, Year 8 learning about representations, Year 9 will be working with 2D and 3D shapes and objects and Year 10 will be developing their Algebra skills. After the completion of their mocks, Year 11 will be focussing on number skills for their exam this term.

Maths Joke of the week

I had an argument with a 90° angle. It turns out it was right.

Hegarty Maths- Stars of the week



Figures for this week only:

Year 11	Wei L – 12.7 hours	Tobi B-M – 10.6 hours	Ruby Y - 10 hours
Year 10	Jhazmin C – 4.2 hours	Thazmin C – 1.9 hours	Macy E – 1.3 hours
Year 9	Valentina F – 3.6 hours	Evie H – 1.9 hours	Stella W – 1.6 hours
Year 8	Razea C-M – 18.3 hours	Maya P – 3.7 hours	Archie C– 3.3 hours
Year 7	Louie H – 9.7 hours	Tilly S-S – 6.4 hours	Ashley C– 4.3 hours

Prizes are on the way in the next few weeks for all of your hard work - keep going!

Mr Tumi
Assistant Principal of Maths

Music

Next week is an important event in our calendar – our annual Remembrance Service for year 7. In a normal year, we would be preparing for a live concert and service – a cross collaboration of all the arts in school (Music, Drama and Art). However, this year the event will be recorded and shared with year 7s on Friday, 13 November during the school day (in lesson time). Students in year 7 and year 9 Arts Award have worked tirelessly to produce this important dedication and we will be looking forward to presenting this video next week and expecting the highest standards of respect from all year 7 students who will be watching this.

Students in all years have been working exceptionally well (and safely) in lessons across the department this week. Year 7s have all completed their final rehearsal of *Remember Me* from *Coco* for the Remembrance event. Next week we will be starting our new unit of work in earnest – where students will be exploring the keyboard as a musical instrument in more detail. We are looking forward to hearing and seeing exceptional instrumental skills being developed which underpin musical learning across KS3 and KS4. Year 8s have started their unit of work entitled 'What Makes a Good Song'? We started by exploring the 'very top of the pops' and were shocked by some of the songs that feature in the best-selling songs of all time! (If you are intrigued, take a look here: https://www.officialcharts.com/chart-news/the-best-selling-singles-of-all-time-on-the-official-uk-chart_21298/).

Discussions were had about what are the fundamental elements of a successful song and we will be exploring these in more detail this term, ready to compose and create their own 'good songs'.

Year 9s have started to prepare class ensembles for a potential virtual Christmas concert – watch this space! Year 10s are exploring methods of composition and the importance of starting points. The first task was to rewrite lyrics of a popular song but this time to 'sell a red bike'. Wow – some truly creative lyric writing developed from this!

Well done to all our year 11s for completing their mock exam this week. Remember to bring in all of your coursework material for next week's lessons – we are expecting you to perform your solo performance in class this week. Good luck for effective rehearsals and practice over the next few days!

Instrumental lessons – following updated guidance from our local music hub and government, we are reviewing our practices for instrumental lessons. We hope for them to restart for this term on Monday, 16 November. Please see the email I have sent for more information.

All in the music department wish you a safe, peaceful and relaxing weekend.

Mr Lewis
Head of Music

Year 7 Update

A positive start to term 2 for Year 7s, well done!

They have come back after half term ready to learn and in good spirits. Year 7 have started their term 2 lessons positively and staff are pleased with their behaviour for learning. To support learning, please can you check that your son/daughter has a full pencil case ready for learning each day and that they bring their Term 2 Knowledge Organiser to school every day. This week we have reminded Year 7 to keep their masks on unless they are outside or sat down in the Heart Space. As the weather changes, please can you check if a raincoat or coat is needed.

If you have any concerns please email your son/daughter's tutor or contact one of the Year 7 team.

Dr Jakes
Learning Lead Year 7

Year 8 Update

Year 8 have arrived back with such positivity this term and it has been great to see them all. Even with the news of lockdown the students have faced adversity and continued to work fantastically.

A big well done to Darrell S and Samuel G for being selected for trials with the under 13's Sussex football team. Unfortunately, their trial has been postponed. We wish them the best of luck when this has been rescheduled.

Mr Humphrey
Learning Lead Year 8

Year 9 Update

As a school community, we will this year be taking part in the Christmas Shoebox Appeal. This is a fantastic opportunity to help children in our local area, around the UK and all over the world who are less fortunate than us

and bring them some joy at Christmas. I would like year 9 to really get behind this campaign and make a positive impact within our community. It is simple; get an empty shoebox (we have some in reception at school), wrap it with Christmas paper and fill with simple gifts, toys, sanitary items etc. These boxes will then be shipped out to children who need them the most. When your box is ready put your name and tutor group on top of the box and then bring it to the year 9 office. Christmas is fast approaching and I would like to start seeing these boxes come in over the next couple of weeks. The impact that these boxes have is huge and will put a smile on the face of a child who may otherwise have nothing.

Mr Anstey
Learning Lead Year 9

Year 10 Update

A successful first week back for year 10 who have enjoyed being able to have their breaks and lunches in the heartspace. There have been numerous success stories this week but I would like to mention some of our 'high flyers' who have had a fantastic start to the term:

1. Kai B
2. Alfie H
3. Ruby H
4. Luke M
5. Barney C
6. Ethan W
7. Imogen C
8. Ollie W
9. Thandi M
10. Kelsie F

I wanted to mention some of our students who just missed out on the top 10 but have shown a huge improvement in their behaviour and application - Hayley C, Ellis R and Ashton F. Well done to all of you!

Lastly, a quick heads up that there is going to be a huge Hegarty prize giveaway next week - so get on it- do your homework and then do more work. Chocolate and vouchers up for grabs. Happy Hegartying!!

Mr Wilkinson
Learning Lead Year 10

Year 11 Update

Mock Week!

Year 11 students have been sitting their first full set of mocks this week. For many, it is their first chance to experience the examination hall and the 'exam feeling' that comes with it. This year it has been a very busy action packed week, which the students have taken to superbly well. We look forward to seeing the results!

In addition, next week will be a keen focus on transition for year 11. During tutor time we will be discussing college applications, personal statements, and the application process for apprenticeships. In addition, some of the cohort will be experiencing the arts mock examinations, which are on Monday and Tuesday.

Mr Eldridge
Learning Lead Year 11

Attendance

Term 1 % Attendance is as follows:-

- Year 7 – 96%
- Year 8 – 92.8%
- Year 9 – 91.1%
- Year 10 – 90.9%
- Year 11 – 90%

Congratulations to all 627 students who achieved 100% in term 1 – look out for your names to appear on the attendance tree on our notice boards!

We would also like to congratulate parents/carers for their continued support in ensuring your children attend school regularly and are therefore benefitting from their educational opportunity.

We will continue to reward students for their weekly 100% attendance and support students/parents/carers with any queries or support they have with regard to attendance.

Mrs Ashdown

Attendance and Safeguarding Manager

Careers

Year 10 - Work Experience – an overwhelming response from Year 10s expressing their interest in work experience for next year – thank you and well done for handing forms in by the deadline. I will be in touch regarding the next stage soon. Students who handed their forms in late will be contacted separately.

Year 11 – 1:1 Careers Discussions – these are taking place for the majority of Year 11 for two weeks from 23 November to 4 December 2020. Students will be receiving their appointment cards next week. If parents/carers have not returned the consent form (in case of a lockdown situation) please do so as soon as possible - please see the following link:

<http://www.bexhillacademy.org/media/documents/My%20Future%20Starts%20Here%20Careers%20Interviews%20-%20Final%20Oct%202020.pdf>

Miss Holden

Careers Adviser