



11<sup>th</sup> September 2020

Dear Parent or Carer

I wanted to write to you early in the term to welcome you and our students to The Grange Academy. After what has been a very disrupted period, we have had a great start to the new academic year and it was a pleasure to see so many smart students arriving in their new uniforms and enthusiastically getting back to work. One or two students appeared with inappropriately coloured hair and I am pleased that steps have been taken to remedy this in line with our new uniform code.

Our Covid action plan appears to be working well so far, with separate year group 'bubbles' and plenty of hand sanitisers in use throughout the school, though we must remain vigilant. Year 7 seem to be finding their way around well and are adapting well to the change from primary to secondary school, and our other year groups seem refreshed and ready to go. Both Year 7 and Year 8 are already benefitting from the new KS3 materials developed by the Future Academies Curriculum Centre in Pimlico. It has been wonderful to see the children learning the names of animals in Latin and enjoying Homer's *Odyssey*.

After the record value added grades at A level (+0.33 per grade, one of the highest in the area) and the success of Bhavini Patel and others in securing places at Oxbridge and other leading Russell Group universities, it is no surprise that our Year 12 has proved more popular than ever, with a record 90 pupils joining us this September, including a growing number of students from outside.

I want to remind parents of our desire to send all communication electronically. Please ensure we always have a valid email address and mobile phone number so that we can communicate easily with you. The tutor meetings proposed for 15 September will now be taking place by telephone next week: Year 7 tutors will be contacting you shortly as outlined in Mrs Rogers' letter which is on the website.

### [The Grange Academy News](#)

Communication between students and their teachers is especially vital at this time and we are fortunate to have excellent online tools to share work and to link school and home. The new website has a link to the *Realsmart* login and the suite of apps that students used successfully over the lockdown period. Please ensure your son or daughter is able to login and use the tools provided. We will continue as in lockdown to use Google Classroom as the only vehicle for setting homework, so please do not use your *Smarthomework* login; please ask for your child's login details to Classroom to enable you to keep track of their homework and support them in completing it to the best of their ability. Students should also check their email and use their Calendar to organise their time.

Unfortunately, due to Covid precautions, our Open Evening events will be virtual this October. Please watch this space for further details. Hopefully you will have seen our new website here: [www.thegrange.futureacademies.org](http://www.thegrange.futureacademies.org)

It is hot off the press, as it were, and we are adding information to it all the time, which will offer a wealth of insight and snapshots into the many activities and challenges on offer at The Grange.

Yours faithfully

Dr Philip Hills  
Principal

