



THE GRANGE
ACADEMY
LIBERTAS PER CULTUM

10th November 2023

Dear Parents and Carers

I hope that you and your families have had a great half term break. We were excited for students to return last Monday and have a fantastic first week back.

This term, as always will be incredibly busy, with so many school events taking place in the lead up to Christmas. These include, our 6th form open evening, Yr11 and Yr13 mock exams, Yr7 and Yr9 assessments, enrichment events, our Christmas production and Christmas Lunch. In addition, please be aware that as previously communicated, the **school will not be open to students on Friday 17th November** (INSET day).

With so much to look forward to this term, it is important that we ensure that the school is in the best place possible to be able make the most of these events, alongside our drive for students to make great academic progress. I would therefore like to remind parents (students have been spoken to through assemblies) of the schools expectations in some areas, in which last term we were not as consistent as we would want to be. **The academy will hold a high bar in these areas and firm sanctions will be issued where these expectations are not met.**

Punctuality

In my letter last term, I referenced the link between strong attendance (+96%) and students' performance at every external assessment point compared to their peers, including GCSEs and A levels. The same correlation is also true between exam results and punctuality (arriving on-time for school and lessons).

The school building opens each morning at 7.45am for students providing free breakfast and morning activities in sport and within the library. **All students are expected to arrive before 8.25am in order to reach their lineup by 8.30am. Students arriving later than 8.35am receive a 40-minute academy detention.**

Studies have shown that students who arrive early to school are more prepared, have higher aspirations, are less anxious, and achieve higher grades in their studies due to being organised and ready for the day ahead. Students who are regularly late struggle to prepare mentally and physically for the challenges of the day at school.

Please note that parents whose students are regularly late to arrive at The Grange will be asked to attend a meeting this term with a senior member of staff or pastoral leader.

Uniform

As we move towards the winter months we encourage all students to come dressed appropriately to school with a warm outdoor coat and, where necessary, gloves, a hat, and scarf (please note that hoodies are not allowed under any circumstances). **Once students enter the building, they are reminded to remove all outdoor clothing and to wear their school blazer at all times.** Any outdoor clothing worn inside the building will be confiscated.

Students are also reminded of the following uniform expectations:

- Shirts must be tucked into trousers and top buttons fastened
- Ties must be worn to the waist
- Skirts should be worn just to the knee or just above
- Students are permitted to wear one small (stud only) piercing in each ear - **all other facial piercings are banned in-line with the schools uniform/behaviour policy**
- Students are not allowed to wear fake nails or eyelashes
- Students must wear their school blazer to school and in school every day

Community Expectations

We are proud of the manner in which the students display our academy values of **Knowledge, Aspiration and Respect** towards each other when moving around the building, and during break and lunch periods. We also expect the same level of behaviour in the local community, especially when students travel by bus and train and when coming into contact with local community users.

This half term we are increasing the staff and 6th Form student presence on local routes and students have been reminded in assemblies of the high expectations. **Please can we request that as a parent you discuss this with your child, as any student not meeting these standards may lose the right to use public transport.** In November we have the local Transport teams coming into the school to work with students to develop further our positive links.

Please be aware that students qualify for a Zip Oyster Card, which permits them free travel on TfL services. **All students will be asked to present their Zip card prior to boarding buses when travelling to/from school. In order to prevent delays and disappointment, please ensure that your child does have their card available. They will not be permitted to travel if they do not have either their Zip card, or other means of payment.** Zip Oyster Cards can be obtained following the link below. However, if you need any assistance or support, please contact the pastoral team.

<https://tfl.gov.uk/fares/free-and-discounted-travel/11-15-zip-oyster-photocard?intcmp=55575>

Parent Working Groups

Our next Parent Working Group (PWG) is scheduled for 9.15am on the 15th of November. The session will be run by the schools academic Vice-Principal, Laura Abbott, and will focus on curriculum and assessment.

I will also be sharing with parents on the morning the schedule for the remaining four PWG meetings due to take place over the Spring and Summer terms. These will include topics such as homework, home-school communication, reports and sanctions/rewards. Thank you so much to all those parents that completed the online survey and allowed us to prioritise the topics you want to see covered.

If you were not able to attend our first PWG meeting last term, please do feel free to join us on the 15th November, we want to have as many parents involved and able to provide feedback as possible. Thank you for all your support towards the vision of **Libertas per Cultum (Freedom through Education)**. I look forward to seeing you all soon.



Danny Bryant
Principal
The Grange Academy