

14<sup>th</sup> February 2024



THE GRANGE  
ACADEMY  
LIBERTAS PER CULTUM

Dear Parents and Carers

I am writing to you at the end of an incredibly busy, but enormously successful half term. Over the last 6 weeks the academy has continued to take actions to improve the school experience for everyone involved with The Grange Academy, and most importantly look to ensure the academic progress of our students. I have communicated to you as our parents, the academy's dedication to its vision statement of **Libertas per Cultum (Freedom through Education)**, and how we are unwavering in our belief that this will only be achieved through working with you to ensure our expectations of our students are as high as they possibly can be. To expect less would be to do the students at The Grange Academy a disservice.

My commitment to the above has led me to request greater staffing capacity for a period of time upon return from the half-term break (Monday 26<sup>th</sup> February). As a result, the Future Academies Trust, of which we are proudly part of, will be deploying a number of additional school leaders to be based at The Grange Academy from the 26<sup>th</sup> February. They will be introduced to the students upon our return from half-term.

### **Return Arrangements**

Alongside the additional staff capacity the school will be receiving, we will also be making some changes to the school day for the first two weeks back of the half-term break (from the 26<sup>th</sup> February). The additional time will be used for further training with our staff to support our school improvement priorities. The details of changes to school day timings are outlined in the table below:

Date	Key Change/Information
Monday 26 <sup>th</sup> February	Students will return to school for a <b>*10.30am</b> start. Students will line up as normal at 10.30am, before going to tutor time 10.35am-11.00am. Students will then attend P3 as normal. <b><i>*Please note that Year 11 students will be expected to return to school at normal time (8.30am) on this day (Monday 26<sup>th</sup> February) as they will complete mock assessments</i></b>
Tuesday 27 <sup>th</sup> February – Wednesday 28 <sup>th</sup> February	Normal school day(s). All students are to arrive by 8.30 am <i>KS3 dismissed at 3.00pm, KS4/5 dismissed at 3.10pm.</i>
Thursday 29 <sup>th</sup> February	The school day will finish for all at 2.10pm <b><i>(with the exception of Yr11 students completing assessments)</i></b> . <i>This additional time will be used for staff training (2.20pm – 3.20pm)</i>
Friday 1 <sup>st</sup> March and Monday 4 <sup>th</sup> March	Normal school day(s). All students are to arrive for 8.30am. <i>KS3 dismissed at 3.00pm, KS4/5 dismissed at 3.10pm.</i>
Tuesday 5 <sup>th</sup> March	The school day will finish for all at 2.10pm <b><i>(with the exception of Yr11 students completing assessments)</i></b> . <i>This additional time will be used for staff training (2.20pm – 3.20pm)</i>
Wednesday 6 <sup>th</sup> March onwards	Normal school day(s). All students to arrive for 8.30am. <i>KS3 dismissed at 3.00pm, KS4/5 dismissed at 3.10pm.</i>

The full school calendar/term dates can be found on the school website (including the 2024-25 academic year):  
[www.thegrange.futureacademies.org](http://www.thegrange.futureacademies.org)

Other scheduled dates for staff training (INSET – closed to students) this academic year are:

- Monday 15 April 2024

### **Parent Working Group**

Thank you to those of you who were able to attend our third Parent Working Group (PWG) meeting last week. We hope you found the session useful, the focus was on communication and reports, with an opportunity for parents to provide feedback and ask questions about how our parent reports will look this academic year (this will be sent to you this week, with an accompanying letter from Laura Abbott, Academic Vice Principal).

Alongside this, please see below the other areas covered within the Spring 1 PWG meeting:

- Homework – Update regarding changes. A KS3 Homework Timetable has now been distributed to all students in Yr7, Yr8 and Yr9.
- Revision materials and exam preparation for students - The academy has looked to consolidate this in some year groups, to both support ease of access for students and to allow parents to take greater accountability in ensuring their child is revising for upcoming assessments (Yr11 mocks will be taking place immediately after the half term).
- MyChildAtSchool (MCAS) – Jon Nagle (Pastoral Vice Principal) went through the MCAS App that is available to all parents, including key functionality around tracking your child's attendance, details of positive and negative behaviour points and alerts/notifications of any detentions. Please do contact your child's Head of Year or the pastoral team if you have not yet accessed this. It is important that all of our parents are using MCAS and that we can continue to develop how it is utilised to support parental communication/engagement.

**Our next meeting will be a morning session (9am – 10am) and is provisionally scheduled for the 20<sup>th</sup> March 2024. I will write to all parents to confirm details closer to the time. This session will be focused on *Sanctions and Rewards* in place at The Grange Academy.**

#### **Parent Working Group – Schedule**

- Autumn Term 1 – Principal welcome, vision, and values
- Autumn Term 2 – Curriculum and Assessment
- Spring Term 1 – Communication and Reports
- **Spring Term 2 – Sanctions and Rewards**
- Summer Term 1 – Homework
- Summer Term 2 – Enrichment

#### **Expectations: How can you support as a parent?**

##### **Attendance**

Students who attend well and arrive on time achieve better than their peers at every external assessment point, including GCSEs and A levels. The research into the link between attendance and student attainment states that the link between overall absence and attainment when taking prior attainment and pupil characteristics into account showed that, for each KS2 and KS4 measure, overall absence had a statistically significant negative link to attainment – i.e:

1. Every extra day missed was associated with a lower attainment outcome.
2. A student with 100% attendance has an 80% chance of achieving at least 5 good GCSEs.
3. However, if a student takes one day off every 2 weeks (90% attendance) then this falls dramatically to 50%.

The table below shows the number of days, lessons, and minutes of learning missed for different attendance percentages.

<b>Attendance Percentage</b>	<b>Number of Days Lost per Year</b>	<b>Number of Lessons Lost Per Year</b>	<b>Number of Minutes of Lost Learning</b>
100%	0	0	0
98%	4	24	1200
95%	9.5	57	2850
90%	19	114	5700

It is important to recognise the importance of punctuality; being both on time to school (***all students should be on-site by 8.30am, with any student arriving after 8.35am marked as late, and a 40-minute Academy Detention***) and on time to lessons throughout each school day.

The school has introduced a '2 buzzer system' this term, whereby a buzzer will sound to indicate the end of a lesson, followed by a second buzzer 5 minutes later to indicate that you should already be inside the classroom of your next lesson. This has been introduced to provide clarity to the students around being late to lessons and students are expected to be in lessons ready to learn before the 2<sup>nd</sup> buzzer sounds. Failure to be inside the classroom at this point will result in a 40-minute Academy Detention being issued.

### Equipment

As well as good attendance, it is important that students are prepared for their learning. This includes being fully equipped for lessons. Students should have a;

- Black or blue pen (x2)
- Green pen
- Pencil
- Ruler
- Calculator
- A **clear** pencil case
- Reading book

We will be adding further checks at the start of each school day to ensure that students have come equipped and prepared to learn. Should a student speak to pastoral staff before the start of the school day about why they might not have their pencil case that day, we will look to provide a solution and no additional sanction will be issued. However, where students have not arrived equipped to learn (with the items above) and have not brought this to the attention of the pastoral team before any checks are complete, a 40-minute Academy Detention will be issued.

### Uniform

Our Academy uniform policy and 6th form dress code are important to us. It promotes a strong and cohesive identity within the Academy community. Our uniform policy reflects our values and reinforces our culture of high expectations and provides an opportunity to demonstrate our core value of **Respect**. To ensure your child has the correct uniform for the first day back please review the table below.

#### **Academy Uniform – Years 7 -11**

Item	Requirement/s	Academy Branded
Academy Blazer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To be worn at all times around the school site (Blazers may be removed in lessons at the teachers discretion)</li> </ul>	Yes
Academy Shirt	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• White (short or long-sleeved)</li> <li>• Top button always to be done up</li> <li>• Shirt always to be tucked into skirt or trousers</li> </ul>	No
Academy Jumper	Optional Item: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• If a jumper is to be worn it must be a Navy Blue Academy jumper</li> </ul>	Yes
Academy Tie	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Knot to be pulled tight covering the top button on the shirt</li> <li>• Tie must be worn long enough to reach to the top of the trouser or skirt</li> </ul>	Yes
Academy Skirt	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Navy Blue and to always be worn at knee-length</li> <li>• Skirt must not be rolled up</li> <li>• Must be contemporary in style and so is <i>tailored with a structured waist band</i></li> </ul>	Available
Academy Trousers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Navy Blue and to be worn at full-length</li> <li>• Must not be tight-fitting</li> <li>• Any belts worn must be black and have a professional buckle with no branding</li> </ul>	Available
Academy shoes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All students must wear a suitable pair of formal, plain black, flat, leather school shoes. Any stitching, laces and sole must be black</li> <li>• Students are not allowed to wear boots</li> <li>• Black trainers or plimsolls are not permitted</li> <li>• Shoes must not have large buckles or decorations</li> </ul>	No
Tights Socks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• With skirts – tights must be plain black or navy blue, without patterns. Socks or Ankle Socks must be plain black or navy blue</li> <li>• With trousers – plain black or navy blue ankle socks (white socks are not permitted)</li> <li>• Knee-high socks are not permitted</li> </ul>	No

Headscarf (where required)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Must be plain black, navy or academy blue</li> </ul>	No
Academy Bag	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Academy bag is part of the full Academy uniform and must be used at all times. It must not be put inside another bag</li> <li>PE kit should be in a plain blue or black separate sports bag if necessary</li> </ul>	Yes No
Coats/Outside Clothing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Coats must be plain in colour – they can have the manufacturers logo but must not contain images or words that could cause offense</li> <li>Scarves, gloves and hats are not to be worn inside the building at any time</li> <li>No baseball caps are to be worn on the Academy site</li> <li>Hoodies are not to be worn or brought onto the Academy site (these will be automatically confiscated)</li> </ul>	No
Jewellery	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Students may wear one pair of small stud earrings, one in each earlobe</li> <li>Students may wear one watch</li> <li>Body piercings are not allowed; this includes all facial piercings, stretch piercings or more than one piercing in the ear, and tongue piercings</li> <li>Covering a piercing is not acceptable</li> </ul>	N/A
Hair	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Razor/sculpture patterns or lines are not allowed in hair or eyebrows</li> <li>Brightly dyed hair is not allowed</li> <li>If hair is dyed, it must be one natural colour</li> <li>Long hair must be tied up during certain activities for health and safety reasons e.g. Sports lessons</li> <li>Bandanas are not permitted</li> <li>Decorative attachments are not permitted</li> <li>Hair must not be cut shorter than a number 2 blade anywhere on the head</li> <li>Hair accessories must be plain black or navy blue</li> </ul>	N/A
Make up	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Students wearing overtly obvious make-up will be asked to remove it at the discretion of staff</li> </ul>	N/A
Nails	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Nail polish/nail gel is not permitted in any colour</li> <li>False nails are not permitted; this includes acrylics or nail extensions</li> </ul>	N/A
Base Layer	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>A white base layer can be worn under shirts in winter but this is not to be visible.</li> </ul>	N/A

Branded Academy items can be purchased from the uniform suppliers at [Uniform4Kids](https://www.uniform4kids.co.uk) or via the school uniform shop at Pullens, 48-50 Church Rd, Stanmore HA7 4AH (020 8954 3850).

For further information or details regarding the 6<sup>th</sup> Form dress code, please visit our website <https://www.thegrange.futureacademies.org/secondary/uniform>

The positive trajectory the school is on is not only clear within the leadership team, wider staff, and students but also further endorsed through visitors to the school, who have witnessed the progress the school has made from afar. Whilst these organisations/individuals are not themselves part of our school improvement project, they do offer an incredibly valuable perspective on the quality of how The Grange Academy now serves this community and recognise our work towards the vision of ***Libertas per Cultum (Freedom through Education)***.

Yours sincerely,



**Danny Bryant**  
Principal  
The Grange Academy

**Knowledge, Aspiration, Respect**

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