

July 2018

Dear Parent/Guardian,

It is with great pleasure that I have taken on this new Year 11. I have been a member of staff at Giles Academy for the last 11 years and involved with the Pastoral side of school for the last 6 years. Year 11 is a very important year and there may be many challenges along the way, however, with strong home school partnerships I am confident that we can have impact and ensure that students leave the Giles Academy with the best possible outcomes. The year team has made some changes with our tutors as we say goodbye to Miss Kent and Mrs Vanko and welcome Mrs Castley and Mr Cooper. We also welcome Mr Sutherland who will be sharing the role of Assistant Head of Year with Miss Brader and Miss Perry as the Year 11 Progress Co-ordinator. Miss Belcher will continue in her role as Head of Upper School.

In order to make any uniform adjustments for the return to school in September I have spoken to several parents on the phone already. To clarify there is no expectation that anyone buys the "new uniform" if their original uniform is still OK to wear. What we are particular about is mix and match uniform. You must wear the correct uniform either old or new, it cannot be black trousers with the dark grey blazers. If there is anything you are unsure about regarding uniform feel free to call the school and speak to your child's form tutor who can clarify any specific questions you may have. It is my view that if students cannot take the uniform seriously then it is unlikely they will take any other factor of the school seriously.

Year 11 will finish during the month of June, well before the peak time of the summer holidays. What a better time to reward students for working very hard throughout the year and for significantly less money than holidays during the peak time? With that in mind, any other request for a family holiday during term time will not be authorised. It goes without saying that not attending school makes attainment more difficult, but it is also worth bearing in mind that schools are a community service, this is not a private institute therefore by taking a student out of school you are impacting on the rest of that class of students as well as the individual. Financially it might make sense to pay the fixed penalty notice but morally it is questionable especially in Y11 when there is a big window of time in June/July where a holiday could be taken without negatively impacting anyone.

Aside from this, if you live in the village of Old Leake and would like your child to come home for lunch this is OK but I will need a new letter to say that this is the arrangement again from September. I would like to remind you that no other student can attend your family home other than your own child over the lunchtime period. For many, circumstances change so it is best year on year to update these records in the best interest of safeguarding the students at school.

I will be in contact regularly and look forward to working with you over the coming year.

Yours faithfully,



Mr A D Castley
HOY 11