



14th April 2021

Dear parent/carer,

I hope you have had a safe, restful, and relaxing Easter break. We look forward to welcoming all students back into the Academy on Monday 19th April 2021 at 8:30am.

As we hopefully move towards some form of normality, we shall be maintaining the one-way system around the school and this has been refreshed with new signage. The one-way system has seen a reduction in the hustle and bustle of corridors and we have witnessed calmer and more considered movement around the buildings. We shall also be maintaining a stance of no visitors (unless emergencies) in the school hours. Any parental meetings will be by appointment and occur post 3.15pm, this will give the staff and senior leadership the best possible chance to devote time to increase standards in the classroom and support other staff.

I am delighted to inform you that as a Trust we are investing over £800,000 at Tudor Grange Academy Kingshurst. A new restaurant making it more spacious, offering better service and giving the students the opportunity to eat and socialise together in a larger area; a refurbished drama studio as we look to invest in Drama and Dance (performing arts); a new foyer area making transition easier through one of the main arteries of the school; a new outdoor basketball area; finally fixing and restoring the air conditioning and heating in the whole of D Block; generally painting and decorating as a 'Golden Gate Bridge' type programme begins closely monitored by Belrock, our facilities provider.

Expectations remain high on our priority list and I would appreciate your support to help us maintain consistent standards within the academy. I have included these points below for your reference:

Punctuality to School - Since returning to school there has been a noticeable increase in students being late in the morning. A staggered start from 8:20-8:30am allows students to filter into school in a controlled manner under our COVID risk assessment. Please ensure students are in their tutor period before 8:30am to avoid a late detention.

New Detention System – Following feedback from parents and students we are now issuing parents with 24h hours' notice. This will be via a text message. Teachers will also be issuing a notice slip to students, so they also have physical notification.

Uniform Expectations – Due to lockdown and non-essential shops being closed we have been flexible on some uniform standards during this time. However, when we return to school we will expect students to be in full school uniform. If there are any issues, please contact your child's form tutor as soon as possible. A copy of the uniform guide is available on the academy website also for your reference.

Please can I draw your attention to the following, though, which are non-negotiable.

- **Face Coverings** – for the time being until further notice (DFE to review on 17th May 2021), students are to continue to wear these in class and inside the building where social distancing is not always possible. Please ensure students have a mask each morning and are reminded about the importance of wearing this in the designated areas.
- **Jewellery** – No jewellery should be worn. This includes bracelets, rings and necklaces.

- **Piercings** - Students are permitted one pair of plain stud earrings (silver or gold). These are to be worn in the lower ear lobe only. No other piercings are allowed (nose, lip, tongue or upper/inner ear etc.). Students will be asked to remove these items.
- **Hairstyles** - Extreme hairstyles, cuts and colours are not allowed on any occasion. Examples of extreme hairstyles, including close shaved, decoratively shaved, two-tone colouring, extensive highlighting and decorative braiding, are not allowed. Any dyed hair must be of a natural hair colour.
- **Nail extensions** – These are not allowed, and students will be asked to remove these.
- **Excessive makeup and Fake Tan** – In the uniform guide subtle makeup is permitted. Students not following this will be asked to remove and tone this down.
- **Mobile phones** – These are not to be used whilst on the school site during normal school hours. This includes any headphones, smart watches or MP3 players. If phones or mobile devices are seen or heard on the academy site, then they will be confiscated. A second confiscation will require the parent/ carer/ nominated adult to collect the phone from the school at their convenience.
- **Trainers** – These should only be worn during PE lessons or extra-curricular activities only.
- **Coats and hoodies** should not be worn in the buildings at any time.
- **Jumpers** – These are now optional. Jumpers are only compulsory between October and Easter.

Our uniform stockist, PB Sports, is open from 9am-5pm each day (Monday-Friday). Uniform is available via an online order, click and collect service. Most items are in stock and there is a very quick turnaround. If uniform items do not fit, then these can be returned and replaced. PB Sports offer a very fast and reliable service for our school community.

Bikes – We have seen a positive increase in students riding to school which is great for health and fitness benefits. However, can I remind all parents that bikes are brought into the academy at the owner's risk. We encourage students to use an appropriate and sturdy lock to secure their bikes on school site. For safety reasons students are asked to walk their bikes through the school site when they arrive. We regularly communicate with students on safe riding and encourage students to be sensible as the travel in and out of school and take no unnecessary and unsafe risks. Can I also bring to your attention that electric scooters are not allowed onsite as they are illegal to ride on the highway and foot paths.

PE Lessons and extra- curricular opportunities - Can I remind you of our PE kit policy. Pupils will be expected to bring kit to all lessons, even if not being able to practically participate, as they will be expected to take part in other roles, such as that of a referee, scorer keeper or coach etc. I am pleased to say we have now been able to bring back after school activities and would encourage students to take part in these if they can. These are in year group bubbles and run from 3:15-4:15pm. Academy kit is needed for these sessions and a list of activities is available from their tutor.

My Child At School Parent App – This mobile app allows you to get an array of information on your child at school, which includes their attendance, behaviour and reward updates and access to school reports and personal information. The app also allows you to communicate with the school office and receive push notifications rather than text messages, which we will be phasing out over the next year. We have seen an increase in parents using this app over the last term, but there are still a lot of parents who have not signed up to this. All parents have been sent logon details, however if you cannot find this link please email office@kingshurst.tgacademy.org.uk to obtain another.



Mental Health and Student Support

We've seen an increase in students with mental health concerns since the first lockdown. It's important that students know where to get help in school if they're concerned – your child's tutor, mentor and the college team can help with this. You can also speak to Mrs Ridley as the College Leader for Safeguarding if you're worried that your child or another child is at risk of harm. The school has links with professionals which allow us to refer students for mental health support where necessary, but it's also important to help students learn how to manage their mental health safely and to stop it from reaching crisis point. There's lots of advice on mental health for parents and carers as well as students on the school website

(<https://www.kingshurst.tgacademy.org.uk/safeguarding/mental-health/>).

We are strongly encouraging all students with mental health issues to use Kooth (<https://www.kooth.com/>). This offers free online counselling and support, aimed at young people and provides guidance for students who are struggling with mental health concerns at all levels. There are numerous features, such as goal setting, discussion forums, an online magazine and the option to message a qualified counsellor which will help students learn to manage their mental health in a positive and sustainable way.

The school is also excited to be working with Warwick University on the PIPA Trial. This trial will explore the effectiveness of an online resource for parents/carers to help reduce depression and anxiety in young people. Parents/ carers of students in years 7-10 will shortly receive a letter inviting them to take part which will contain more details about the support the PIPA trial will provide.

Thank you for taking the time to read this letter. Your support as ever is greatly appreciated. If you have any questions relating to any of the information in this letter please contact your child's College team in the first instance for clarification.

Best wishes,

Mr. D. Turner
Executive Principal