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Date: 3rd September 2021



Education and Families

Mr Gregg Orrock
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Dear Parent/Carer

As we reach the end of yet another busy week in school I remain delighted with the productive and positive start to the new term our young people have made. It has also been great to see how well our S1 pupils are settling in and adjusting to life in the Academy. I would also like to thank all parents and carers for your ongoing support of all our young people in helping them settle back into school life and school routines.

Having recently changed all our staff e-mail addresses it seemed a good time to send notice of our new school e-mail address (above) and also some further information about communication between school and home (attached).

The information leaflet is designed to summarise how we communicate with parents, how often and in what formats and explains how and when to get in touch with us. It also provides proposed dates for parent's evenings for this session as well as dates when tracking reports will be issued home. Please note that arrangements for parents evenings is dependent upon any COVID-19 restrictions that may be in place and, in lieu of face-to-face events, this year we are likely to move to an online format with further information issued when appropriate.

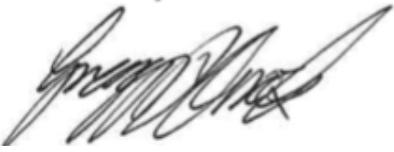
Sometimes, when we survey parents, there is a range of expectations with regards to how often the school communicates regarding each pupils progress. Many parents tell us they are happy with the level of communication and information they receive about their child whilst some others tell us it is insufficient. Of course, the level of communication is entirely dependent upon the needs of each individual and circumstances that arise during the course of a pupil's time with us. We will always try to be in touch if we feel it is essential and we are always happy to discuss any concerns raised directly with us. Having open channels of communication is essential to everyone feeling connected and part of a child's learning journey and I would encourage parents to contact us directly if you have any concerns or questions. However, whilst we believe that the four formal reporting engagements (3 tracking reports and 1 parents' night) strikes the right balance I am happy to discuss this with our Parent Council on behalf of our parent forum.

Finally, I also attach our attendance newsletter and a copy of our new attendance poster both of which detail the importance of good attendance and time keeping at school and the potential impact of even relatively few absences. Given the current circumstances, attendance at school is more important than ever and the pandemic is certainly making that more of a challenge than normal. Nonetheless, we also understand that some young people suffer illness that results in extensive absence from school. This information is in no way designed to be critical about any individual's circumstances and where extensive absence exists, we will do everything we can to support the young person involved.



I hope you find this information useful and wish all our families a restful weekend.

Take care.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Gregg Orrock". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a prominent loop at the end.

Gregg Orrock
Head Teacher