

4 November 2021

Dear Parent/ Carer

I hope this communication finds you and your family well.

Following on from Mrs Griffiths' letter dated 27 October 2021, I thought it was timely to write to you and introduce myself. As Mrs Griffiths mentioned, I have moved across from The Morley Academy to join John Smeaton Academy. I am extremely excited about the opportunity to work with our students and yourselves, as well as with members of staff and our governing body. I have been overwhelmed by how welcoming the students have been to a new Senior Leader and this has made my transition across an enjoyable experience.

There is no doubt of the transformation that is underway within the academy; the students speak very positively and enthusiastically regarding the changes that have been made and the significant improvement in the climate of the academy is evident. Having been a Senior Leader for 6 years and having worked at The Morley Academy since 2005 I am well versed in the relationship between high standards and the positive experience of students, including the outcomes they achieve and the skill-set they acquire. If our students are to truly 'secure the Gift of Choice' it is imperative that we continue on the upward trajectory that has been established at pace and work in a collaborative manner to ensure this is built upon every day.

Both Mrs Griffiths and I have led Year group assemblies throughout the course of this week. One of the key messages for students during the assembly was reiterating the importance of students arriving punctually for school each day. The school gates open at 8.25am for pre-form and students must be in registration with their form tutor by 8.40am; we must continue to work collectively to reduce the number of students arriving late to the academy.

We have also reiterated the importance of wearing uniform correctly, with top buttons always fastened and shirts tucked in. Students have also been reminded that they must wear ankle length black socks, not trainer socks and their ankles are not to be on show. Trousers must be black and tailored in style and skirts must be black and worn at knee length. Furthermore, students must come correctly equipped for PE including with football boots when these are required. As you are aware, we have worked tirelessly with our community to address uniform issues throughout half term 1 of the Autumn term and consequently it is pleasing to see that the majority of students have embraced the importance of this.

Our pastoral offer within the academy is of great importance and is one of the areas of my remit. There are some changes that I would like to make you aware of in relation to the pastoral structures within each year group and I have detailed these below for your reference. Please note, where there has been a permanent change of form tutor these are also listed below; if your child's form is not referenced it is because there has been no change to their form tutor:

Year 7

SLT link - Mr A. Huddleston, Assistant Principal

Year group manager- Mr D. Johnson

Form 7.1 – Mr L Conway

Year 8

SLT link- Mrs L. O'Connor, Senior Vice Principal
Year group manager- Mr D. Green

Year 9

SLT link- Mrs E. Jackson, Senior Assistant Principal
Year group manager- Mrs V. Winters

Year 10

SLT link- Miss G. Lambie, Assistant Principal
Year group manager- Mr T. Clarkson

Year 11

SLT link- Miss L. Smail, Assistant Principal
Year group manager- Mr T. Clarkson

Pastoral care is extremely important to us here at John Smeaton Academy and we work hard to ensure all students are known, valued and understood.

If you do have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact the academy either by email via enquiries@johnsmeatonacademy.org.uk, via the MyEd app or by telephone on 0113 8313900. We endeavour, where possible, to contact you within a 48-hour period.

Yours faithfully



Mrs E. Jackson
Senior Assistant Principal