

12 July 2022

**RE: Additional training day – Wednesday 20 July**

Dear Parent/Carer,

There is no doubt that this year we have undertaken a remarkable journey at John Smeaton Academy and, as we approach the end of this academic year it is important to reflect on all that has been achieved and on the continued priority areas.

Each year the trust commissions external reviews of each of the academies within GORSE. This is to ensure that an 'external eye' is able to review the provisions and provide an impartial insight into our work. John Smeaton Academy's review took place on Friday 17 June and went incredibly well. I would like to take this opportunity to share some of the comments captured within the report with you:

- 'The quality of education is improving at pace'
- 'Routines such as Purple Zone ensure that pupils have the discipline to concentrate and work independently'
- 'Behaviour and attitudes have improved enormously'
- 'Relationships between members of staff and students are strong in the vast majority of cases'
- 'Leadership and management has been highly effective in transforming the school'
- 'Pupils we spoke to had an age appropriate understanding of economic wellbeing, sex and relationships, drugs and alcohol and staying safe online'

We hope the above reassures you that your child's educational provision is continuing along the positive trajectory we said we would deliver when John Smeaton Academy joined The GORSE Academies Trust.

We are, however, at an important time of the school's transformational journey and, therefore, we would like to ask for your help with the following:

- Punctuality remains an area for improvement. Students need to be in their form room on time for an 8.40am start. To support this the gate opens at 8.25am. Please could you support us by ensuring your child arrives on time for school.
- The standards in respect of uniform have been variable in recent weeks. As you are aware, collectively we have worked hard to ensure students understand the importance of following the academy's code of conduct including in respect of uniform. We have greatly appreciated your support in respect of this, however, we would ask that you revisit the uniform your child is wearing to school each day to ensure that is in line with the academy's policy. Where it isn't and you feel you need financial support to address this please do not hesitate to contact us via email at [enquiries@johnsmeatonacademy.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@johnsmeatonacademy.org.uk).
- Please could you take a moment to ensure your child has the correct equipment as per the list available on the academy's website at: [Uniform and equipment - John Smeaton Academy](#). Again, if you need financial assistance in ensuring your child has all of the correct equipment please contact us via the email address above.
- We recognise that the hot weather can affect the ability to get a good night's sleep. The research around the importance of sleep and the effect on our ability to learn successfully is well documented. We would be really grateful if you could discuss the importance of being well rested with your child as we embark upon these final few weeks. We view every day of learning with importance and we have many wonderful opportunities including through additional events,

to look forward to over the coming weeks. It is, therefore, really important that students arrive with a positive mindset, ready to learn and get involved in school life, right up until the end of term.

Finally, I would like to ask for your understanding and support in respect of the following: **on Wednesday 20 July 2022, John Smeaton Academy will be closed** as members of staff will be undertaking an additional training day in order to continue, at pace, the transformation of the academy and ensure that we are able to provide the best experience possible for your child. We recognise that for some families the timing of this additional training day may present a couple of challenges and, therefore, if you are one of the families in this position we would urge you to contact us via email at [Claire.monteiro@johnsmeatonacademy.org.uk](mailto:Claire.monteiro@johnsmeatonacademy.org.uk) or by telephone on 0113 8313 900, please ask to be transferred to the Principal's PA, Claire Monteiro if you choose to contact us via telephone.

Your ongoing support to ensure that students can have a fantastic end to the school year is greatly appreciated.

Yours sincerely,



Ms P Gill  
**Principal**