

**THE BUSHEY  
ACADEMY**

Proud to belong

18 April 2017

Dear Parent/Carer

I am delighted to introduce myself to you as the new Principal of The Bushey Academy. I thank Mr Hemmings for the help and support he has given me during the transition period from January to March. I am sure that you will join me in wishing him well for the future.

Having spent some time in the school already, it is clear that the staff, the governors and the parents share the same vision. It is our mission to make sure that every student at the school leaves with all the necessary ingredients to lead a happy and fulfilling future, namely excellent exam results, a well-developed character, and the sort of skills that employers are looking for in the modern world. We need to work together to make this a reality for your son/daughter,

As a parent, as well as a teacher, I am acutely aware that the school and the home must work in partnership if our students are to reach their full potential and succeed. After all, we want the same thing: for your son/daughter to achieve at school. You have my assurance that I will do all I can to give your son/daughter every opportunity to flourish. However, I will need your help to reinforce six key messages that I will be giving to the students over the next few weeks:

### 1. Attendance

There is a clear and obvious link between good attendance and achievement. The government expects all students to have a minimum of 95% attendance over the academic year and that is my expectation too. I ask for your support, by ensuring that your child has good attendance at school.

### 2. Punctuality

Students are welcome to enter the academy from 7.45am to 8.20am when free toast is available to all. I expect that all students are on site by 8.20am. Good punctuality is a life skill that is very important in the world of work and we must encourage our students to take this seriously. Please can you ensure that your son/daughter gets into school on time.

### 3. Uniform

We are a uniform wearing school and I expect all students to look very smart at all times and wear the uniform correctly. This includes 'proper' shoes. This is a clear way in which your son/daughter can show that they are 'Proud to belong'. Our uniform is 'non-negotiable' and I ask for your help and support in this by ensuring that your son/daughter dresses correctly for school (including the 6<sup>th</sup> Form). For more details on the uniform, please see the uniform policy on our school website.

Winner 'Building Futures Design Excellence' Award 2013 • Winner 'ICT Facility' Award 2013 • Commended 'Outstanding Academy' Award 2013

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#### **4. Behaviour**

I have already met many wonderful Bushey Academy students who are mature, caring and passionate about being the best they can be. They know that if they are going to achieve well at school, their behaviour needs to be excellent. It is my clear expectation that every student at the academy behaves very well not only in lessons, but around the site and to and from school. I am looking at the behavioural system that we use at the moment, to see if changes are needed to make it more effective. I will write to you later in the term to explain any changes that will be in place for September. However, this is an area where the school cannot work alone and we must have a partnership with you. Please reinforce with your son/daughter the high expectations of behaviour that both the school and you have for him/her.

#### **5. Mobile phones**

I am a firm believer that mobile phones in school cause more harm than good. They are a distraction from learning, they can lead to increased stress as children use social media during school hours, and they can easily be lost or damaged. The ban on mobile phones at The Bushey Academy will remain and again I ask you to discuss this with your son/daughter (please refer to the mobile phones policy on the school website for further details). Please do not contact your son/daughter during the school day on their phone. If you need to get a message to your child, then please call the main reception and the message will be passed on ASAP. I will be telling the students not to contact you on their phones during the school day (they can go to Student Services and the message will be quickly passed on to you).

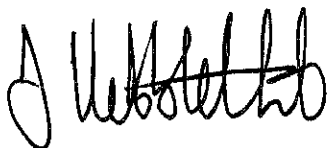
#### **6. Homework**

There is no doubt that students who spend time and effort on their homework achieve better than those who do not. We must expect all students to do work at home so they can move forward their learning and build up the vital skill of being able to work independently. With Year 11s now facing around 30 exams in a 6 week period in the summer, developing revision techniques and skills are also crucial. I will be looking at the amount of homework set at the academy as I know that some of you have concerns about this, but again this is an area that we must work on together. From my own experience as a parent, I know that getting your child to do their homework is not always easy, but if both the school, and you, give a clear message to your son/daughter that homework is important and that we value it, then I am sure that they will complete it to the best of their ability.

It is clear that the key word for school and home is 'partnership'. As previously mentioned, we want the same thing: success and achievement for your son/daughter. If we work together, then there is no doubt that your son/daughter will meet this shared vision. Please remember that your first point of contact at the school is your son/daughter's form tutor.

I very much look forward to working with you to ensure that your child achieves well at The Bushey Academy and is fully prepared for the next stage in their life.

Yours sincerely



Jon Hebblethwaite  
Principal