



9 December 2022

Dear Parent/Carer,

Last week we held our first Subject Parents Evening back in school after 3 years of conducting them online. It was so positive to be able to invite parents to school to meet teachers and discuss their children's progress. I hope, for those of you who attended, it felt worthwhile. We certainly enjoyed meeting you and sharing information about your child's progress with you. We will be continuing with face to face meetings and I would urge you to attend your child's year group if at all possible. If you are unable to attend, please contact us directly and we will send you an email update or talk to you on the phone.

The remaining key dates are as follows:

Y7 Subject Parents Evening: Thursday 15 June 2023
Y8 Subject Parents Evening: Thursday 27 April 2023
Y9 Subject Parents Evening: Thursday 16 March 2023
Y11 Subject Parents Evening: Thursday 12 January 2023

Y8 Form Tutor Evening: Thursday 9 February 2023
Y10 Form Tutor Evening: Thursday 18 May 2023

Y9 Options Evening: Thursday 9 March 2023

Parents' Evenings are one part of our engagement with you as parents and carers. We are committed to developing our relationship with you which is why we are, this year, working towards a Parent Partnership award. We will be reviewing all of our communications as well as exploring different ways to engage with you. If you do not have the Edulink app, please take the time to download it as you can access useful information about your child's progress at school. If you have not logged on to Edulink already we will be sending you an email invite this week - please watch out for it, the invite may go into your spam folder! We will be developing our use of this excellent app during the coming year.

If you would be interested in coming to school during the day to look around, please let us know and we will organise someone to host you. We would very much like to offer parents and carers the chance to experience the school whilst we are all here! It could support your children in talking to you about their experiences at school. If you would like to visit or contact us about anything else please use the following email: hello@gra.hslt.academy.

You may be aware of the government's recent guidance on school uniform. This states that second hand uniform should be available, which we have had in place for a while now. We would like to replenish our stocks. If you have any good quality uniform to donate, please drop it off at reception and if you require anything please contact us at school. The guidance also asks schools to review their school uniform with a particular focus on cost. We are currently considering changes for September 2023 which will reduce the cost to parents and carers. We will be limiting required branded items to two things, ensuring all other required items are easy to purchase from supermarkets, department stores or online.

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This will also apply to PE kit. We are planning to have more than one supplier for any branded items in order to secure good value for money. The purpose of these changes will be to reduce cost, whilst also maintaining the school identity and ensuring an inclusive environment. Any changes will be phased into place and students with current uniform will be able to continue to wear it. It will not be necessary to purchase a completely new uniform. There have been some initial discussions with students and staff about changes. If you have any views which you would like to share with us, please let us know using hello@gra.hslf.academy.

We are maintaining our strong focus on improving attendance at school. I am pleased that we have seen some improvements compared to last year but we still have some progress to make. Good attendance is so crucial, not only for academic progress but also to support mental health and wellbeing. Please continue to send your children to school every day!

Next week, the final week of the term, there will be celebration assemblies for each year group. This is the opportunity for us all to recognise and celebrate achievement this term. On Friday we will be having a non-uniform day which will include Christmas jumpers for anyone wishing to be involved. We will make a collection for Save the Children again, for anyone who wishes to be involved.

As we approach the end of the term, I would like to thank you once again for your continued support. The school continues to make good progress and we are very proud of our students, your children and what they are achieving. I would like to wish everyone an enjoyable break, whilst also appreciating that we are living in difficult times. Despite that I hope, some quality time with friends and family is possible and that it can bring some joy and happiness at this time of the year.

Yours Faithfully

Emma Robins
Principal