



19/07/21

Dear Parents/Carers,

**Re: *Principal's End of Term Letter***

As this academic year draws to a close, we would like to again extend a heartfelt thank you to you, our community, for your ongoing support. While the challenges associated with COVID-19 have continued, at Beacon Hill Academy it is our firm belief that this year has been phenomenal for many positive reasons.

Our combined endeavours were recognised in our nomination for the 'Pearson National Teaching Awards.' As a result of this, Beacon Hill Academy became the proud recipient of the 'Lockdown Hero' Award for Outstanding Learner and Community Support. The panel of judges, many of whom are practising teachers and Teaching Award winners, formally praised our hard work and success in navigating the challenges of the pandemic. Our achievements are a testament to both the commitment of our learners, our staff, our parents/carers and the wider community. Everyone at Beacon Hill Academy is elated with this national recognition!

Throughout the turbulence of the last twelve months, our learners have been a credit to our school. They have quickly and successfully adapted to a hybrid of face-to-face lessons and when the need arose, successfully returned to our distance learning programme. We have rewarded their hard work and determination through the many prizes and commendations issued throughout the year. Yet again, it has been wonderful to see that so many of our learners have been recognised for their excellent efforts at our annual presentation evening.

It is with great pleasure I confirm the many other highlights:

- Over £400 was raised for the restoration of 'Sedgley island.'
- Full refurbishment of the main block roofing system is well underway.
- An agreed expansion to the school hall, increasing capacity for learners at lunch and break times.
- A dedicated and comprehensive Summer School to support learners entering their first and final year of schooling at Beacon Hill Academy.
- Reinstatement of extra-curricular provision for all learners e.g., football, basketball and the Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme in advance of many other institutions.
- Reinstatement of school trips and visits - ensuring these activities are COVID secure.



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- I have awarded over 1000 Principal Commendations and throughout the lockdown period, we awarded over 5000 E-Merits whilst also treating over 40 families to our famous 'Teams Takeaways' on a Friday night following superb dedication and commitment to distance learning.
- During our Annual Presentation Evening alone we issued over 750 subject commendation certificates and over 150 pastoral commendations, plus over £1000 worth of Amazon vouchers have been distributed as prizes.
- Attendance continues to improve with nearly 2000 certificates for 95% and 100% attendance each half term presented to learners throughout the year.
- The end of year rewards saw over 200 learners awarded with free ice-creams and 120 complimentary lunches provided for continued excellent efforts in various fields of endeavour. This is in addition to over 400 Bronze DAT Merit badges being awarded from November onwards.
- During the second lockdown, over 300 laptops were loaned out to support learners.
- 323,000 questions answered on Hegarty Maths.
- 5,400 GCSE Pods streamed.
- 8000+ English Maths and Science Century AI nuggets completed.

Once again, it is important to note that many of the aforementioned achievements were only possible due to the dedication and commitment of our staff. It is fitting that I take this opportunity to publicly thank them for their continued hard work and support.

### **Back to School from 7th September 2021**

Decisions regarding arrangements for the restart of school are subject to government guidance. Beacon Hill Academy, supported by Dudley Academies Trust, will continue to be diligent and put in place a range of measures that will help facilitate the safe return of all of our learners.

### **School Timings**

- Subject to government guidance, the start of the day and end of the day for all learners will be at the same time (08:40 and 14:45).
  - Learners who arrive after the 08:40 bell will be marked as late.
- Staggered lunchtimes will remain in place.
- Different entrances for year groups will remain in place. It is essential that learners adhere to their allocated entrance and exits.
  - To assist in this process, learners will continue to be supervised by Senior Members of Staff and Learning Managers.
- Year 11 Period 6 will commence from the w/c 13th September 2021 and will take place from 14:55 – 15:45 every Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday.
  - Please note that attendance to these sessions is compulsory.



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The academy will re-open to learners on the 7th of September 2021, however further communication will be shared with you in due course as to how and when learners will return. This is subject to Government guidance and plans to mass test all learners. I will of course write to you closer to the time to ensure that you are well informed of these arrangements.

We are pleased to note that all learners will continue to study their full curriculum, unimpeded by restrictions from September. In terms of timetable, each year group will receive this on their first day back. This document is important as it will outline the lessons they need to attend (period and location) as well as break and lunchtime timings. It is important that learners go straight to their form rooms on their first day. Learners must be punctual.

Over the summer holiday, we will continue to work with the Trust and monitor the advice and guidance we receive from Public Health England, Dudley MBC and Central Government, including the Department for Education. Our approach will be informed by this and we will keep you updated on any national, regional or local changes which affect the key strategy elements outlined above.

### **Uniform Expectations**

Can I also take this opportunity to outline our uniform expectations and remind you that full uniform must be worn at all times – there are no exceptions to this. The full uniform requirements for Dudley Academies Trust can be found in the Parent/Carer Guide on our website (Parents & Carers > Parent/Carer Guide). We ask for your support in ensuring that uniform expectations are upheld.

#### ***The Uniform expectations include:***

- On the days which your child has PE, they should continue to attend school in their full PE kit. This will negate the need for learners to use changing rooms and again mitigates the risk of any cross-contamination between year groups.
- On the days which learners have PE, they will be expected to wear their full PE kit. Learners will be permitted to wear shorts to school or wear their school trousers over their shorts. Learners can also wear Beacon Hill Academy branded tracksuit bottoms as sold by our PE uniform supplier (SurrIDGE Sport). No other tracksuit bottoms, hoodies or other branded clothing will be allowed.
- Learners are to wear formal, smart, black leather or patent shoes. Learners are not permitted to wear trainers unless on a day they have PE – this can only be with the full PE kit. Learners are not permitted to wear as school shoes, black leather trainers including those without markings. School shoes should have no visible branding (whether the branding is a different colour or black) including Nike ‘ticks’ or sporting logos. If a learner chooses to wear black ballet pumps, these should be plain black without any accessories, such as studs.



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## Beacon Hill Academy

High Arcal Drive, Sedgley, Dudley, West Midlands, DY3 1BP  
T: 01902 677754 E: [helpline@beaconhillacademy.org.uk](mailto:helpline@beaconhillacademy.org.uk)  
W: [www.beaconhillacademy.org.uk](http://www.beaconhillacademy.org.uk)  
Principal: Sukhjot Dhami



- Boots are not acceptable (a boot is defined as anything that touches or comes above the ankle bone).
- Jewellery is limited to one small ring of religious significance; one small plain metal stud in each ear lobe; no facial piercings are permitted e.g. nose studs. Stretcher style piercings are not permitted in any circumstances. Jewellery cannot be worn during PE lessons. If jewellery is worn for medical reasons, suitable medical evidence identifying the reasons for this must be provided to the school.
- Hair accessories such as bows, flowers and wide bands are not permitted, thin 'Alice bands' may be worn.
  - A Plain black headscarf (if worn) is allowed.
- Only natural hair dyes are permitted. Hair should be no shorter than grade 1 and no design lines/patterns are allowed.
- Learners are not permitted to wear nail varnish and acrylic/false nails must be removed for school.

As always, thank you for your continued support. I would like to wish you all a happy and healthy summer with your family.

Yours faithfully,

**Mr S Dhami**  
**Principal**



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