



A part of Windsor
Academy Trust

Headteacher
Mr T Macdonald

Place of registration: England



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@CHAcademyTweets

Wednesday 30th August 2023

Dear Students and Parents/Carers,

Welcome Back to Cheslyn Hay Academy for a New School Year!

I hope you have had a wonderful summer holiday and are looking forward to continuing your educational journey with us at Cheslyn Hay and Windsor Academy Trust! As we prepare to begin a new school year, I would like to take a moment to remind both students and parents about a few important aspects of life at Cheslyn Hay, as well as some changes that we are introducing this year.

Start of Term Arrangements - We start next **Tuesday**, at the usual school time of **8.35am**. We are keen that all students arrive able to get to their form room for 8.35am each morning for a prompt start to the form session. The school day will end at the normal time of **3.00pm** with buses departing shortly after this time. Note that there will be no after school activities on this first day.

Aspirational Target Setting - A new approach to target setting will be rolled out to all students through this year and more details will follow as we share these new targets with students. Rather than using Primary School data to estimate performance of students in the future, we are keen to set stretching and aspirational targets for students that are simple to use, remember and understand. For GCSEs, we will have only 3 target grades: those grades that are considered 'gateway' grades for future career and educational opportunities - grades 9, 7 and 5. Students gaining more of these grades will have greater opportunities in their future and we will be basing our target setting on encouraging our students to achieve more 9s, 7s, or 5s as appropriate (whilst recognising the importance of all the other grades in between!) More detail on this will be shared by year group as targets are shared with students

Structure of the Day - A reminder that we are trialling a new approach to the school day with all lessons being taught in 'doubles' across a two week timetable. This will not impact on the amount of teaching in each subject and will not affect the timings of the school day.

Personal Potential - In previous years we have run 'ASPIRE for Life' days. We are altering this approach and spreading the wonderful activities and learning across two weeks each term, interspersed with students' usual lessons, to minimise the impact on our curriculum whilst maximising the availability of exceptional activities.



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School Layout - Over the summer we have made some changes to the layout of the school, with many departments moving to new classrooms and some rearrangement of the pastoral offices. These changes should smooth the movement around the school a little and simplify access to pastoral staff for students at break and lunchtime.

School Uniform Expectations - We believe that a smart and consistent school uniform not only instils a sense of pride and belonging but also prepares our students for the standards they will encounter in their future. I kindly request parents to ensure that students come to school dressed in accordance with our school uniform policy. This includes wearing the correct attire, shoes, and accessories as outlined in our [school guidelines](#). Where students have been unable to find the correct uniform, we will have a small stock on site for students to borrow on a daily basis - please support us in ensuring that students start the year following the guidelines fully as we are keen to raise our standards in this area for the start of this year.

iPads for learning - I kindly urge all students from Years 8 to 11 to remember to bring their iPads to school each day, fully charged and ready for use in classes. These devices serve as powerful tools for research, collaboration, and creativity, and we want to ensure that each student can benefit fully from their capabilities.

Home Learning - Home Learning (or Homework) is an important part of each students studies and we will be reviewing our approaches to home learning over the course of this term to ensure that there is more consistent, strong work available for all students that is clearly shared with parents and students. This will help all students make the most of their learning and maximise the impact of our iPads for Learning.

Communicating with School - Thank you to all those who took part in the survey and focus groups regarding communication between school and parents. I will share some changes and feedback with parents early in the school year. ClassCharts will remain our key method of communication, so please do check this regularly.

I look forward to welcoming all of our students back to school next week - here's to a successful and rewarding year ahead!

Yours sincerely

Tom Macdonald
Headteacher