



Drapers' Academy

Principal: Mr Darren Luckhurst, BSc (Hons)  
Chairman of Governors: Mr Tim Orchard, MA (Cantab)

Settle Road, Harold Hill, Romford RM3 9XR  
T: 01708 371331  
F: 01708 347515  
E: [admin@drapersacademy.com](mailto:admin@drapersacademy.com)  
W: [www.drapersacademy.com](http://www.drapersacademy.com)

Dear Parent / Carer

July 2019

As we come to the end of another busy year at Drapers' Academy, I would like to take the time to thank you all for your support. We have continued to improve significantly this year and the fact we are yet again oversubscribed in Year 7 for another year is testimony to this. I know that if we continue to work together, our young people will leave here as fine individuals, ready to take on the challenges of our formidable world.

At the start of the academic year we were pleased to welcome Ofsted for a no-notice inspection. As I stated in my summer newsletter last July, our attendance had started to improve and our fixed term exclusion rates decreased by half. Ofsted praised us stating the following 'concerted efforts, and revised procedures, the rate of pupil exclusion has fallen considerably in the last year. Pupils' attendance has improved in the last year, and is close to the most recent national average.' These are two significant areas of the school that we were judged negatively on during the previous inspection. I anticipate a return visit from Ofsted during the next term and assuming our GCSE and A Level results have improved from last year, we should be well placed to receive a more positive outcome this time around.

Although our overall attendance percentage has improved to almost the national average, there are still too many pupils who are persistently absent. This means their absence rate is greater than 10%. A pupil who misses 6 days in a term is classed as a persistent absentee. Term time holidays have impacted on this too, holidays taken during the term will not be authorised. Please continue to support us by ensuring your child attends every day school and also on time. Punctuality has unfortunately become an issue for us this year and it is something else I want us to improve on.

Last Wednesday our Year 11s once again celebrated in style at their Leavers Ball at Stockbrook Manor. What was especially pleasing this year were the number of positive comments we received. They told us that our school have the politest and best behaved pupils of all the schools that have ever attended one of their prom nights! We look forward to celebrating both successful GCSE and A Level results this coming August. Details of results days can be found on the school's website.

As parents you will be aware of the significant strength of our pastoral team. The school is now 50% bigger than it was in 2010 and the demands placed on the pastoral team have therefore increased. There is also an ever increasing need to closely monitor academic progress. Therefore I have appointed five Year Achievement Leaders. All five are teachers and their additional responsibility will be to track and support achievement. We hope that this structure will help us to identify underachievement sooner and therefore intervene even more effectively.

The pupils have told us that the maximum spend they were allowed in school to buy food and drink was too low. Therefore we have increased this to £5 per day from September. We will continue to remain competitive with our pricing of food from our dining hall and café.



## Staff Update

I continue to recruit the best possible staff to positions within Drapers' Academy and I am pleased to introduce our new staff to you:

<b>Name</b>	<b>Subject</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Subject</b>
Mr Plager	Business and Economics	Miss Gooding	Maths
Miss Harris	English	Miss Hill	Maths
Miss Miller	English	Miss Shaw	Maths
Miss Simpson	English	Mr Newman	Religious Education
Mr Zaman	English	Dr Uchenna Alli	Science
Ms Butterfield	Geography	Mr Embling	Science
Mr Wrightson	History	Mr Panesar	Science/Physics

---

As is the norm in all schools, some staff will move on at the end of the year to seek different challenges to enhance their career. The majority of staff leaving have gained promotions in other schools. This term we say thank you and goodbye to the following:

<b>Name</b>	<b>Subject</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Subject</b>
Mr Giles	Business	Mr Baah-Mensah	MFL
Miss Costin	English	Mrs Rahman	Religious Education
Mr Roberts	English	Miss Abdullah	Science
Miss Alphonse	Geography	Miss Elliott	Science/Physics
Mr Kumar	Maths	Mrs Gunn	Science
Mrs Nash	Maths	Mrs Thanabalasingham	Science

---

A few reminders of expectations and procedures for September:

- The uniform shop will be open at Drapers' Academy on the following dates, should you need any items of uniform; Wednesday August 7<sup>th</sup>, 14<sup>th</sup> 21<sup>st</sup> and 28<sup>th</sup> between 10.00am - 1.00pm. A reminder that trousers should be mid grey, not black.
- In addition to the expected equipment list, all pupils should have their own scientific calculator. Brands vary and the one we recommend is a Casio Fx83 GT, we will be selling these at school for around £8 (payable via ParentPay). This will last them all the way to university and beyond.
- It is vital that every pupil has excellent literacy skills. Unfortunately, some pupils who start with us have poor reading and writing skills. This means they usually struggle to achieve what is required of them in their other subjects. Any pupil in Key Stage 3 who has a reading age below what is expected will be given additional literacy lessons. In September we will continue with our successful Read, Write, Inc. literacy programme.

- We are introducing the Accelerated Reader Programme to all Year 7 & 8 pupils. This has taken considerable investment to resource over 400 pupils. Your child will have their reading age assessed regularly to ensure they are being well challenged.
- Over the summer holiday it is vital that you encourage your son/daughter to read regularly. Six weeks without reading is a long time. The more a child reads, the more they improve their vocabulary. This will have a positive effect on their studies.
- Another new initiative for September is FROG. What is FROG? This is our new online learning platform and communication tool. We will be implementing various different features of the system throughout 2019-2020 and we will write to you regarding these in due course. The first thing to note is that FROG will be replacing 'Show My Homework'. Your child will be receiving new log-in details in due course.

Pupils and students in **all years** return to school on **Monday 9th September 2019**. We hope that you will **ALL** be back from your holidays to ensure 100% attendance from day 1.

Year 7	08.40am
Year 8	10.00am
Year 9	10.25am
Year 10 & 11	11.20am
Year 12	08.40am
Year 13	10.40am

Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> July is our Sports Day. This is an enjoyable day for all pupils whether participating or spectating.

Finally, we are finishing school on Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> July. Pupils will be dismissed after their celebration assemblies as follows:

Year 9, 10 and 12	dismissed at 11.10am
Year 7 and 8	dismissed at 11.45am

On behalf of all the staff at Drapers' Academy I'd like to thank you for your continued support and wish you all a safe and enjoyable summer.

Yours sincerely



Darren Luckhurst  
**Principal**