



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

W: www.drapersacademy.com

Dear Parent / Carer

16 July 2018

I'm not sure if the academic year feels shorter the older you get or if they go so quickly due to being increasingly so full on. What I do know for sure is that we have had another fantastic year, full of highs and lows but very much a positive one. I'd like to thank all pupils, students, parents and carers as well as my wonderful staff for their commitment to what we are striving to achieve here. Drapers' Academy is a busy school, serving a diverse community and if we continue to work together, our young people will leave here as fine individuals, ready to take on the challenges of the 'real' world.

The disappointment of Ofsted last November, classifying us as a requires improvement school, was hard for us all to take. Despite an unfair 'labelling' I took the immediate decision to use it as a platform to make greater gains throughout this year. We continue to provide many various trips, sporting fixtures, exhibitions, performances, music events, guest speakers, workshops, charity events and many other enriching activities that our pupils benefit from. We have redesigned the curriculum in humanities and science to further support outcomes in those GCSEs. Our predictions for Year 11 and Year 13 GCSEs and A Levels indicate a significant increase on last years' performance. Behaviour around the school has improved and fixed term exclusions have halved. So the areas Ofsted want us to show improvement over two years with, have improved significantly after just eight months.

One area that we must continue to improve is attendance. It is an aspect of school that we do require parental support with and I request your continual efforts to ensure your child is always in school. I'm pleased to say that our overall school attendance has improved from last year, however 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. Please continue to support us by ensuring your child attends school, with equipment and on time.

As a parent as well as a Headteacher, the issues our young people face, worry me immensely. Last week our Year 10 pupils had a motivational speech followed by a book signing from Kiyon Prince's dad, Dr Mark Prince. Kiyon's life was tragically cut short when he was stabbed by a 16 year old boy and his dad visits schools to deliver important messages for young people. Please reinforce this by speaking to your children about the dangers of anti-social behaviour especially over the 6 week holiday. Encourage them to get involved in positive activities such as sport, a youth club or increasing their reading for pleasure.

Our Year 11s once again celebrated in style at Stockbrook Manor with their very colourful Leavers Ball. It was lovely to see so many proud parents wave them off as they departed on their Routemaster Buses. We look forward to celebrating both successful GCSE and A Level results. Details of results days can be found on the school's website.

I am pleased to introduce our new staff some have started this term and some joining us in September I'm confident that all will settle into life at Drapers' Academy very quickly and provide the high levels of education that we all expect.

Ms Ndungu
Ms Sarkar
Mrs Burr
Miss Lavender

Maths
English
Head of Languages
Deputy Head of Humanities

Miss Dove
Mr Thompson
Miss Ludlow
Miss Vaz

History
Geography
Government and Politics
Design and Technology

As is the norm in all schools, some staff will move on at the end of the year to seek further 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:

Mr Nelson	Maths	Mrs Salter	History
Miss Kostalas	Deputy Head of English	Mrs Nandra	Geography
Miss Davies	English	Mrs Lee	Drama
Mr Aukett	Deputy Head of Humanities	Miss Santry	Design & Technology
Miss Long	History	Mrs McQuillan	Literacy Tutor – 1 Year
Mr Wilcox	History		Sabbatical

A special mention goes to Ms Lee as she begins her 'retirement', although she will be teaching some RE and general supply work. I hope you all join with me to thank her for all she has achieved in 17 years as a Drama teacher for the impact she has made to hundreds of pupils within that time. Best of luck from all of us as you wind down to enjoy full-time retirement.

A few reminders of expectations and procedures for September:

- The school shop will be open at Drapers' Academy on the following dates, should you need any items of uniform;
 - Wednesday August 1st, 8th, 15th, 22nd and 29th between 10.00am – 1.00pm.
- Homework – please continue to check the 'ShowMyHomework' website to see what homework is set. Any issues, a note in the homework diary to the teacher will help us to help you.
- 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 £5. They 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.
- Over the summer holiday it is vital that you encourage your son/daughter to read regularly. 6 weeks without reading is a long time. The more a child reads, the more they improve their vocabulary. This will have a direct effect on their studies.

Pupils and students Y7-12 return to school on Wednesday 5th September 2018

Year 7	8.40am	Year 8	10.00am	Year 10 and 11	11.20am
Year 12	8.40am	Year 9	10.25am		

Year 13 students return to school Thursday 6th September 2018 at 8.40am

Finally, we are finishing school on Friday 20 July after the 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