



THE HASTINGS ACADEMY

Weekly Newsletter

Welcome back to all our parents, carers, students and academy community.

We, at the academy, certainly hope you all had a very enjoyable summer and regardless of the sometimes not so gloriously sunny weather, were able to find time to rest and restore your energy, ready for the new term.

Much has happened in the academy during the summer break, as always and I would like to thank our premises and admin staff for the work they have done, during the break, to ensure the academy is ready for our students, upon and their return. Alongside the Covid testing centre being set up, once again the academy had brand new carpet fitted in every honeycomb learning area. The richness of and smell of the new carpet is really invigorating, and its sheer presence has given each House the feel of a '6th form college'. We do hope our students enjoy learning within it and that they help to maintain its pristine appearance by using the bins for litter and never dropping chewing gum (which is banned) onto its surface.



This year we were able to host another of our well-renowned Summer Schools, ably led by our Eggtooth colleagues. Each year the children, who attended, gain so much from this experience and this year was no less as successful. We must thank our Eggtooth friends and our staff Mr Avery (Jade add who else attended from the academy) for their support in making this experience one to remember. More about this in this newsletter.

You will know from previous communication that the academy, in line with government guidelines, provided on-site lateral flow tests for our students who consented in controlled conditions, as set out by Public Health England. In the four days of testing, our staff conducted just under 1000 tests. Albeit the staggered start was not what we would have all wanted, this proved to be a very worthwhile exercise which ensured that the positive cases identified, from these tests, did not remain within the academy community at the time of infection. We all know that the positive cases are still high within the local area and I can only request that you continue with the home-testing until the government advise otherwise. I would like to thank all the staff who supported the successful testing of our students, which has kept the academy community safe and well.

The academy is supporting students and staff who wish to continue wearing their face coverings. In

continuation of our protective measures we are ensuring that the classroom windows are kept open, the children, during the fine weather are encouraged to enjoy the fresh air during their breaks and we are monitoring the Co2 levels with a recommended devices.

We planned and engaged in a very informative two days of staff training - with the quality of education and safeguarding to the fore.

We were excited to welcome back our students into their pastoral houses and to have the academy filled with the sound of children and the buzz of movement around the school, as they enter their subject areas, to study. The presentation of the uniform from the vast, vast majority was and is exemplary and I must thank you all for ensuring your child is entering school, dressed for school.

Mr Senior has met with our Duke of Edinburgh link and we are hoping to launch the DoE to our Year 9s in the next few weeks. We congratulate our Year 10s and Year 11s who have continued with this programme and I am delighted to advise that Mr Senior will be arranging our first expeditions, with our students. Keep an eye out, Year 9s, for the information on this and the launch assembly. It is such an amazing opportunity.

Now that we are near enough back to 'normal', the academy is starting to prepare for its annual Open Evening on Thursday, 7th October, which, new government/PHE guidance notwithstanding, we intend to hold in person. Your child may well be asked to support the academy, if we are allowed to include our students during that evening, within a subject area and our Head Students will hopefully be presenting to our prospective parents and carers, in the flesh! If not we will video their presentation. It is a brilliant evening and one that we all enjoy, for it enables the academy to rightly showcase its wonderful resources, staff, students, curriculum, learning opportunities and most importantly, its heart, soul and integrity towards our community. Advanced notice that the academy will close slightly earlier on the day of the open evening, to aid preparing the academy and open slightly later the following day, to ensure it is ready to welcome its children. We will confirm the exact times, next week.

We hold our termly parent forum on Wednesday, 13th September, online via teams between 5pm & 6pm. An update on how our Key Stage 3 assessments are assessed will be presented by Mr Sadler, alongside a welcome return to our parents and carers. Information has been sent out to you, about this but please do email the academy at office@thehastingsacademy.org.uk should you wish to attend. We look forward to welcoming new parents and carers to this lively forum.

Road Safety

It is a delight to see so many parents and carers waiting for their children, at our gates, for it is a good way to connect. However, I am concerned to see the number of students who run across the Rye Road, which is an exceptionally dangerous road, to waiting cars on the other side, or even being walked across the road with parents. Please do not encourage your child to run across this road. It is main route from one port to another with heavy freight and traffic. There is a crossing close to both exits and the expectation is that the children will use them and safely.

Lastly, please do not park on the zigzags, on the vehicle exit or near the academy, where exits and sight points can be blocked. It adds danger to our children and drivers when there are blind viewpoints. We truly thank you for your understanding and your support in keeping our community safe.



Student Entrance

All students will enter via the Learning to Achieve area. Following a review of our practice from last year, students will not be allowed inside the Academy building until 8:30am.

Pastoral Teams

Following our move back to houses from year groups, we have a new Pastoral Team to introduce to you.

East Hill

Mr Wall
Acting Head of Hill



Mrs Browning
Student Support Manager



West Hill

Ms Wickens
Head of Hill



Mrs Oliver-Murphy
Student Support Manager



Firehills

Miss Wright
Head of Hill



Mrs Lansdell
Student Support Manager



Silverhill

Mrs Mann
Head of Hill



Mrs Muggridge
Student Support Manager



Lost Property

We would like to remind parents and carers that ALL items of school uniform should be labelled in the event that they are lost. This includes PE kit. We ask that you also add the initials of the house that your child is in e.g. SH for Silverhill.

Students often hang their blazers up in the PE changing rooms, which can, unfortunately, lead to them being misplaced.

Testimony – Past Student

The Hastings Academy as a school set me up for the skills and confidence in life and ensured I and all of my other peers could get the best opportunity as possible.

The range of outstanding teaching here proves that. From Business Studies to Modern Foreign Languages the school really sets you up for the skills to enter any job in this increasingly competitive and globalised world. The range of trips The Hastings Academy provides are amazing and provide you with an opportunity to discover new and incredible things. It helped me discover my passion for Geography and led to me choosing to study BSc Geography at The University of London, and also teach it.

Since being a student here over 3 years ago, The Hastings Academy has only got better, with a clear drive to offer students and staff alike all equal and the best of opportunities.

Callum Cocks, Subject Mentor

The Hastings Academy Summer School

Over the summer break The Hastings Academy welcomed nearly 100 students to our summer school run by the wonderful people at Eggtooth and Hastings Academy staff. Eggtooth have worked with the academy for many years providing mental health support and counselling, along with a range of creative projects.

Over the week of the summer school, perspective students were welcomed each day with a hearty breakfast before joining their morning activity. The children came with a great enthusiasm to try new things, make new friends and prepare themselves for their time at The Hastings Academy. This was evident through the stories they told of the highlights of their week which included writing raps about their breakfast, trampolining, building swings in the forest (and testing them of course!) and hearing about their new friends.

Team Create saw a rising star in Daisy Beech who performed an amazing rap and Team Forest saw some brilliant traps and tents made in the woods by Ellie and Lily Bird. The tents were so impressive that they could withstand a bucket of water being thrown over them. There was also some excellent work noted by William Brown, William Avery and May Hart who enjoyed their time in the Forest too.

Students were challenged to develop their literacy through all areas of the summer school program. The children have written recipes for their cooking which filled the academy with a wonderful aroma, written and performed raps in team perform, learnt key words and terms in team sport which the children could clearly articulate.

All students had a brilliant experience, making new friends, becoming acquainted with Academy staff and some of the specialised spaces in the building. The students are excited to join us and we can't wait to see them continue to thrive at The Hastings Academy.



Tracing Close Contacts and Isolation

Schools ceased to contact trace up to and including 18 July. Close contacts are now identified via NHS Test and Trace and we are no longer expected to undertake contact tracing.

As with positive cases in any other setting, NHS Test and Trace will work with the positive case and/or their parent and carer to identify close contacts. Contacts from a school setting will only be traced by NHS Test and Trace where the positive case and/or their parent and carer specifically identifies the individual as being a close contact. This is likely to be a small number of individuals who would be most at risk of contracting COVID-19 due to the nature of the close contact. We may be contacted in exceptional cases to help with identifying close contacts, as currently happens in managing other infectious diseases.

Individuals are not required to self-isolate if they live in the same household as someone with COVID-19, or are a close contact of someone with COVID-19, and any of the following apply:

- they are fully vaccinated
- they are below the age of 18 years and 6 months
- they have taken part in or are currently part of an approved COVID-19 vaccine trial
- they are not able to get vaccinated for medical reasons

Instead, they will be contacted by NHS Test and Trace, informed they have been in close contact with a positive case and advised to take a [PCR test](#). We would encourage all individuals to take a PCR test if advised to do so.

Staff who do not need to isolate, and children and young people aged under 18 years 6 months who usually attend school, and have been identified as a close contact, should continue to attend school as normal. They do not need to wear a face covering within the school, but it is expected and recommended that these are worn when travelling on public or dedicated transport.

18-year-olds will be treated in the same way as children until 6 months after their 18th birthday, to allow them the opportunity to get fully vaccinated. At which point, they will be subject to the same rules as adults and so if they choose not to get vaccinated, they will need to self-isolate if identified as a close contact.

Settings will continue to have a role in working with health protection teams in the case of a local outbreak. If there is a substantial increase in the number of positive cases in a setting or if central government offers the area an enhanced response package, a director of public health might advise a setting to temporarily reintroduce some control measures.

As always the academy will inform our parents and carers once we are advised by our Trust, County and PHE colleagues of any changes to our working practice.

Uniform & Equipment – Standards and Expectations

As we start the new term I would like to take this opportunity to reiterate our uniform policy.

- We expect students to wear blazers at all times whilst inside the school. School jumpers can worn be underneath blazers.
- Hoodies (including ex PE hoodies) are not permitted and are not to be worn .
- Please do support the academy by advising your child that upon their arrival to school, if no outdoor coat or school jumper is worn, a blazer must be worn and the hoodie removed whilst in the warm building.
- Students are not allowed to wear hair colouring, nail varnish, fake nails or jewellery (apart from two ear studs) whilst at school. Students refusing to remove these will be placed in Learning Recovery

Our full uniform policy can be seen here: <https://www.thehastingsacademy.org.uk/school-life/uniform>

We will contact parents and carers where non-adherence to uniform rules is evident and thank you for your co-operation.

Lateral Flow Device (LFD) tests for those who have had Covid in the last 90 days

For Information

National guidance [Contingency framework: education and childcare settings](#)

(publishing.service.gov.uk) advises that students in secondary schools and colleges should be tested twice on site at an Asymptomatic Testing Site (ATS) on return in the autumn term. The tests should be 3-5 days apart. Staff and students in secondary schools and colleges, should then test themselves using LFD twice a week at home until the end of September, when this will be reviewed.

However, if a pupil has tested positive on a PCR in the last 90 days they should not participate in the return to school testing, as there is a risk it could display a false positive result. There have been a number of school/college age cases throughout the summer and all of those children and young people along with many who tested positive in the summer term will fall into the 90-day period across the first week of the new term.

To avoid pupils receiving false positives and self-isolating unnecessarily, please alert parents and students to this issue. The 90-day rule applies to the on-site testing as well as LFD tests conducted at home. However anyone with symptoms should get a PCR test regardless of when they last had a positive result.

Lateral Flow Device (LFD) Testing in September

In line with government guidance staff and students in secondary schools and colleges should test themselves using LFD twice a week at home until the end of September, when this will be reviewed. All early years and wraparound childcare staff should also continue to test twice weekly as they have done throughout the summer. This is critical for identifying positive cases early and ensuring they isolate. As detailed above if a pupil or staff member has tested positive on a PCR in the last 90 days they should not participate in testing, as there is a risk it could display a false positive result.

Mobile Phones

A polite reminder that mobile phones should be contained within their Yondr pouch at all times whilst at school.

Behaviour Policy Update – Mobile Phones

Scenario	What would happen
You have your phone in school but it is in your pouch	Great! You are meeting our expectations. Enjoy your learning ☺
You have your phone on you but it is NOT in its pouch	You will be asked to put it in its pouch and will attend Learning Recovery for 6 hours.
You have your phone on you but refuse to use your pouch	You will be excluded for a fixed term and then attend Learning Recovery for 6 hours the next day.
You have lost your pouch	Don't bring your phone to school. You can buy replacement pouches for £10

Comments from Two of Our Head Students

"Being back at The Hastings Academy this year has felt nothing but welcoming. Being able to socialise with other year groups has meant that we all feel closer together. The school has added many new picnic benches so that we can all have a sit down and have a break from learning, ready to focus. Honestly it does feel strange not having to isolate within our year groups but I can definitely get used to us reuniting."

Alexandra Lee

"My first week back to school has been good, the nice weather and all the other students enjoying school is a positive sight. The school lessons went especially well with new YONDR pouches in our school. I haven't seen a phone in lesson since they've been introduced, and feel as if they have worked well in both aspects educationally and socially, allowing students to speak to each other instead of ignore their peers for a phone and as well as that allow them to pay full attention in class. The school looked very new too, from the well set out library to the new seating areas outside.

It was good to see my teachers too in their own classrooms. Since I'm in my final year and have my GCSE's soon I was quite worried; however, being back I've been reassured and received resources and help that has made me more confident within myself.

Overall, the first week has gone well and I'm excited for this year."

Buster Buckle

Year 7 Students on Their First Week at The Hastings Academy

"I have really enjoyed my first week at The Hastings Academy. I have found it difficult at times now that I am in a much larger building and there are a lot more teachers and children. "

Jasmine

"I am really enjoying secondary school and I have had lot chances to meet new people and make new friends."

Archie

"There is a lot more work to do in secondary but we are on top of it and we are keen to be successful."

May

Chewing Gum

With our wonderful new carpets in each honeycomb, I was disappointed to hear from Mrs Macmillan that she was on her hands and knees removing gum from one of our honeycomb carpets. Gum is banned in the academy and the students know this, therefore, we would be grateful if you could kindly remind your children not to bring gum, if they choose to purchase it, into the academy, nor chew it. I am always concerned when the children choose to swallow it rather than spit it into the bin, when asked. We thank you for your support.

Our Vision

To nurture, within our community; the qualities of aspiration, self-worth, courage and a respect for life-long learning.

To aspire, in all, the drive for a successful personal and collective future and the desire for all to achieve and prosper.

