

Dear Parents and Carers

We hope that this letter finds you and your child well and that you are looking forward to a summer break. We are very excited about your child joining us at The Hastings Academy in September and hope that they are looking forward to being a part of our community.

We are writing to you today to check that all of our new year 7 students are ready to begin learning with us in September. This letter outlines a range of important information regarding joining us at The Hastings Academy. We hope you were able to join us at the Transition evening on Tuesday 5th July where Houses and Tutor groups were confirmed and you were able to be introduced to some of the key staff working with your child.

The Academy website page provides full details about school life, teaching and learning and details on key documentation. Please use the link to access our Academy website.

<https://www.thehastingsacademy.org.uk/>

First Day – Monday 5th September

We are delighted to announce that the first school day for year 7 will be Monday 5th September. They should arrive by 8:45am through the student entrance. On this day we will only have Year 7 and Year 11 in the Academy to support your child's transition. We will start the day with an assembly to welcome them into our Academy community and then have time with tutors organising timetables and planning their first day. Students who receive Free School Meals will be able to use the canteen at Break/Lunch, we ask all other students to bring a packed lunch for the first week. Students will not need their PE kit on Monday but from then on will need to check their timetable and be organised. The school day ends at 3pm.

Be equipped for Learning

In secondary education we require all students to bring a range of equipment to school every day in order to ensure they can participate fully in lessons. All students must have a school bag that can carry A4 size folders and bring to each lesson;

- Pencil case – with (minimum) pens, pencils, ruler
- Reading book
- Water bottle
- Student planner – (Students will receive this on their first day)
- PE Kit (on PE days)

School Uniform

We expect that all students arrive in full school uniform from Monday 5th September. Please click below for more detailed guidance on uniform. All uniform items must be labelled with your child's name and Tutor Group.

<https://www.thehastingsacademy.org.uk/school-life/uniform>

If you do have any worries or concerns over school uniform, please can we ask that you contact office@thehastingsacademy.org.uk so that we can help you to resolve them before September. We do understand that some families may require financial support and we are determined that no child should be disadvantaged due to financial constraints. In light of this, if you feel that you may struggle financially with paying for school uniform, please do not hesitate to contact us via the office email and we can guide you to support.

Applying for Free School Meals

Do you qualify to receive Free School Meals (FSM) for your child or children? Did you complete the application form for FSM in the admission paperwork? For more information and to apply follow the links below.

If you have any questions or need further guidance, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Further information on FSM

<https://www.eastsussex.gov.uk/educationandlearning/schools/school-life/meals/free/>

Follow the link to register and apply for FSM

<https://eyeeonline.eastsussex.gov.uk/Synergy/Parents/default.aspx>

ParentPay

The Academy operates a cashless payment system. New parents to the Academy will receive emails inviting them to register an account with ParentPay. Parents with children at the Academy will receive notification and be able to add their child into their existing account. When you are registered you are able to add money to your child's account for them to purchase food from the Canteen and pay/register for trips and events.

Office 365 ,Classcharts and educational applications

All students at The Hastings Academy have access to Office 365. This includes a school email, TEAMS, OneDrive and online access to Microsoft Office applications, e.g. Word, PowerPoint. Registration and communication will be available in September.

At The Hastings Academy we use ClassCharts as an educational tool to support student tracking, progress and communication. As you already know, ClassCharts is the online system which teachers use to track achievement and behaviour throughout the school day. It is also the same portal used to set homework tasks. We believe in working closely with parents and this is a fantastic tool for keeping you updated in real-time about both homework assignments and how well your child is accessing their learning. Registration for students and parents will be available in September.

To support learning the Academy subscribe to different educational applications e.g Maths – Hegarty Maths, English - Bedrock Learning. Students will receive log in details in their first weeks at the Academy.

Phone free Academy

We know that mobile phones have great utility, but are also a massive distraction and it is proven that pro-social behaviour improves drastically when students are fully engaged with their teachers, peers and learning. The Hastings Academy uses the Yondr Program to manage mobile phones on school site. Every student will secure their mobile phone in a personally assigned Yondr pouch when they arrive at the academy. Students will maintain possession of their phones and will not use them until their pouches are opened at the end of the school day when they leave the school site. Students are required to bring their Yondr pouch to and from school each day and are responsible for their pouch at all times. Parents and carers will receive communication and students will receive their Yondr Pouches in September.

How Yondr Works



Lockers

Lockers are available to students on a first come first served system. A deposit of £10 is required to secure a locker for the academic year, the deposit is refundable at the end of the year with the return of the key and good condition of the locker. Parents will receive notification through ParentPay in September.

Wellbeing

If you are worried or feel that your child is struggling with the transition process, please contact the Academy who will be able to help and support. The transition to secondary can provide challenges for some but many are ready for the next steps in their learning

We hope that the information we have provided will help towards reassuring you and your child that their transition to The Hastings Academy will be as smooth as possible. We look forward to safely welcoming you and your family into The Hastings Academy community in September.