

September 2023

Dear Parent/Carers,

It is with genuine pleasure that I would like to welcome your child to Great Academy Ashton, and I hope that you and your family have had a lovely summer holiday. I would like to take this opportunity to introduce the Year 7 Pastoral team. My name is Mrs Farrell, I am the Head of Year as well as my other role as an English teacher. The Year Manager assigned to the year group is Mrs Broadbent and I have also included the list of Year 7 Form tutors:

| Head of Year: Mrs P Farrell | | | |
|-------------------------------|------------------|------|---------------|
| Year Manager: Mrs L Broadbent | | | |
| Form | Tutors | Form | Tutors |
| 7G | Mrs S Thompson | 7M | Mr Mitchell |
| 7R | Mr Crompton | 7I | Mr S Nemes |
| 7E | Mr Malcolm | 7N | Mr N Hawkins |
| 7A | Mr C Kilicarslan | 7D | Miss M Chunda |
| 7T | Miss Cox | 7S | Mr S Hewitt |

On Tuesday 5th September, it was wonderful to welcome your children as they began the next chapter of their lives. Their turn out was impeccable and they are a credit to you. Here at GAA we recognise the new challenges our young people are embarking upon: a new school to navigate, a year group that for some will be bigger than the number of children in their primary school, new teachers, friendships to form, new routines and remembering which day to bring their P.E. kit. It is the first time that many of them are having their independence tested by having to get to school on time, find classrooms on time, continually pack and unpack their bags and remember to take all their things everywhere, as unlike at primary school things cannot be left in a classroom all day.

We also recognise that for parents/carers this can be an anxious time, and should you have any queries or concerns, please do contact the Year 7 Pastoral team so that we can do our best to set your mind at rest and do our utmost to support your child. In school, your children can speak to their form tutor in a morning who should be able to resolve small issues. Mrs Broadbent and I are available at break and dinner to resolve anything they are unsure of. However, it is lovely to see how many of them are successfully adjusting to making these changes, developing their independence and enjoying their first few days here with us.

For students to give themselves the best possible chance to succeed academically, they need to ensure that they learn to organise themselves. These are some suggestions for some students who have not yet mastered this important life skill:

- Putting their uniform including shoes in a place where they can find them in a morning.
- Making a copy of their timetable highlighting when they have P.E. so that they can put their P.E. kit with their uniform the night before.
- Packing their school bag each night if they have taken any books home.
- Setting an alarm to get up on time and giving themselves sufficient time to get dressed, have breakfast and travel to school.

At Great Academy Ashton your children will be introduced to the GREAT values which are Genuine, Respect, Achieve, Excellence and Together. These values are required in the adult world and will enable your children to be the best version of themselves. Students within the academy get these values right on a daily basis and are recognised for it by staff. Staff reward students with GREAT points on a system called Class Charts. The system also highlights any consequences that have been put in place, so you know what time to expect your child to finish school and arrive home. If you have not already done so, please download 'Class Charts Parents' through the app store or Google Play. You should have received details on how to access Class Charts. If you do not have the details to access your child's Class Charts data, please let us know so we can support you with this and keep you up to date as to how well your child is performing in school and how GREAT they are doing.

If there is anything that you would like to discuss with the year 7 pastoral team, please feel free to contact us on redpastoral@gaa.org.uk.

Yours faithfully
Mrs P Farrell

Head of Year 7