

29th January 2024

Dear Families,

I hope that you and your families had a fantastic Christmas holiday and brought in the new year in the best way possible. I would like to take this opportunity to pass on to you how amazing the year group have adapted to their new life in school, since joining Great Academy Ashton in September 2023. In the space of 16 weeks, the year group has achieved so much and have really cemented themselves as part of our GAA family.

Thank You

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank you for your ongoing support in giving your child the best possible start to their secondary education. We recognise for young people that the transition from primary school to secondary school is a huge step and I am confident in saying that I believe every member of the year group have 'jumped in with both feet', giving everything they have in their first full term.

As you are aware the Year 7 pastoral team are there to provide ongoing support for your child. The team consists of the following staff:

Head of Year: Mrs P Farrell			
Year Manager: Mrs L Broadbent			
Form	Tutors	Form	Tutors
7G	Mrs S Thompson	7M	Mrs Anderson
7R	Mr Crompton	7I	Mr S Nelmes
7E	Mr Malcolm	7N	Mr N Hawkins
7A	Mrs Onafalujo	7D	Miss M Chunda
7T	Miss Cox	7S	Mr S Hewitt

Over the coming weeks/months we have many upcoming events that we would like you to be aware of. We provide these details to you now to allow you sufficient time to speak with a member of the year team. We will be more than happy to assist you with any queries you may have.

Assemblies

Our assemblies here at Great Academy Ashton are tailored to highlight key events throughout the year (e.g. Remembrance Day) in addition to delivering some of the fundamental parts of our personal values curriculum that are not delivered within the classroom (e.g. gender identity and British Values).

Please see below the assembly timetable between now and February Half Term:

Week Commencing 15th January – New Beginnings

Week Commencing 22nd January – Holocaust Memorial

Week Commencing 29th January – Learning at GAA

Week Commencing 5th February – Safer Internet Day (Online Safety)

Week commencing 19th February – LGBTQ and History

Year 7 Interventions Taking Place in 2024

Since September 2023, many students have been working closely with Mr Bagnall, who is our Mental Health & Wellbeing Officer. These students have been targeted for interventions such as ‘Anxiety Workshops’, which supports students that were struggling to adapt to school life at GAA. In addition to this intervention, we have also had some students attending Emotional Regulation and Self Esteem intervention groups which has helped them with the transition process. At GAA we recognise when a student does need a little more help, and will continue to provide support to any student that needs a little extra guidance, reflection and advice.

Expectations, Organisation and Uniform

Your child should ensure that they bring to school each day a minimum of 2 pens (a spare in case one runs out), a pencil and ruler and a rubber. They need to look after and value their equipment as they are the tools they need to use each day to complete their work. This is to ensure they have the best possible chance in completing tasks, that contribute to their learning.

With regards to uniform, the majority are getting it right. Please ensure that your child is wearing plain black school shoes (not trainers), a white shirt/blouse, a tie with the red stripe, their school blazer, skirts which are of a suitable length. It is important that students adhere to the daily expectations because it is what their future employers will expect.

For students to give themselves the best possible chance to succeed academically, they need to ensure that they learn to organise themselves a little better. 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.
- Reading their timetable every morning before they leave the house, so they know where they are after morning registration. 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.

Great Values

At Great Academy Ashton your children have been 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.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you once again for your support over the past 16 weeks. Over that time, we as the pastoral team have got to know all the year group and we are confident in saying that we truly believe that this group has the potential to be the best that we have ever seen here at Great Academy Ashton. Not only in terms of attainment, but in terms of progress, and attendance. Your child's attendance at school is vital to their success, we thank you for making these encouragements at home.

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