

Thursday 30th June 2016

Dear Parent / Carer

IMPORTANT CHANGES FOR SEPTEMBER

You will have received a copy of this letter by post, dated Thursday 23rd June.

When the Academy was established there were a number of management structures put in place that allowed staff to hold more than one responsibility over a large area and ensure that students had access to first class teaching and learning. Now that the Academy is full and with 20 extra students in each year group (following an expansion in numbers in the 2014/2015 academic year), the Leadership Team and I have been reviewing both the curriculum and pastoral structure of the Academy. In this letter I want to let you know about two changes that will be taking place from September. The first is the removal of the Faculty system and the second is a change to the way in which the pastoral system is managed.

Faculty system

The Faculty system allows different subjects to be grouped together and managed by a Faculty Leader. From September, each distinct subject area will be led and managed by its own subject leader (i.e a Curriculum Leader). The existing Faculty Leaders will become Curriculum Leaders. The main impact of this change for parents and students is that if any help or advice about a particular subject area is required, it is the Curriculum Leader who should be contacted directly. The contact details for all Curriculum Leaders will be available in September.

Pastoral System

Currently, we have six Houses made up of students from Years 7 to 13. These are led by six Heads of House and each House has 13 vertical coaching groups made up of students from all year groups. Now the Academy is at capacity it has become clear that there is a need for students in the same year group to be managed and supported by a specialist team. This will ensure that the needs of students in the different year groups can be met.

Currently, it is difficult for one Learning Coach to support all the students in their coaching groups effectively. For example, it is difficult to support Year 13 students with UCAS application forms, whilst at the same time supporting younger students with their transition from primary school or the GCSE option process. Therefore, from September the Academy will be moving to a year-group based pastoral management structure with the Heads of House becoming Heads of Year, having complete responsibility for the pastoral care, welfare and academic progress of all the students in their specific year group.

Your son or daughter's coaching group will consist of students in the same house and in the same year group, with a pair of Learning Coaches. For example, all Year 9 Lister students will become one coaching group called 9 Lister (or 9L). This will allow the support which we provide for our students to be much more specialist and tailor-made, focused on the specific needs of the students, in a way that our current vertical system does not allow.

The letter you received will have the personalised information regarding the coaching group / house your child will be in at the start of the academic year in September.

For your information, the Heads of Year will be as follows:

Year 7	Miss Starkey
Year 8	Miss Williams
Year 9	Miss Malpas
Year 10	Miss Kelly
Year 11	Mr Daverat



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On Wednesday 7th September, as we begin our new academic year, the Academy will be holding a parents' consultation day. This will give all parents the opportunity to meet their son or daughter's new Learning Coach and to review their progress from the previous academic year. Appointment times for this parents' consultation day will be sent out before the summer holiday.

The six Houses will remain and students will continue to be involved in House activities and competitions. These will be run by the House Leader (who is also a Deputy Head of Year). There will also be planned opportunities for students of different year groups to mix together and support each other.

We realise that you may have developed a strong bond with your child's current Head of House and may want to speak to them before the end of the year. If this is the case, please do not hesitate to contact them as they will be very happy to speak to you about the transition. Furthermore, if your son or daughter has any child protection, medical or other information that needs to be shared, then the current Head of House and new Head of Year will be happy to meet jointly with you to ensure that the handover is as smooth as possible.

Mrs Whittle, Vice Principal (Inclusion) is also very happy to answer any questions which you may have about the transition and can be contacted via email on bernie.whittle@chelsea-academy.org.

Yours Sincerely,

Mr M Williams
Principal