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4th September 2023

Dear Parents and Carers

Re: Start of the Academic Year and Welcome Back!

On the eve of the new academic year, we hope this letter finds you and your families well and that you managed to have a good summer break. We appreciate that we may have wanted better weather, but we hope that between the rain showers you were able to enjoy a typical British summer!

We wanted to write to you at the start of term to highlight a few changes that have happened in the academy and remind you of a few things that we will be expecting from our students on their return.

Academy Leadership

The first update is to highlight changes to the leadership structure in the academy. As many of you will be aware I was asked by our Trust, ATT, to support another academy within the Trust during the last academic year. They have asked me to extend this work into the new academic year. What this means is that I will be the Executive Principal across the two academies and have ultimate responsibility for overseeing the strategic leadership in both academies. To ensure that The Nicholas Hamond Academy is supported operationally daily, we have appointed Miss Thomason to the role of Head of Academy. Miss Thomason will lead on the day to day running of the academy as she did towards the end of the last academic year and continue to be responsible for the operational leadership. I will split my time between the two academies and support the respective Heads of Academy with the strategic leadership but the day to day running of the academy will very much now sit with Miss Thomason.

In order to support Miss Thomason, we have worked to create a new leadership structure. What this means is that TNHA will have three Assistant Principals who will each lead an aspect of the academy. Our three Assistant Principals are, Mrs Abrahams who has been with us since Easter, Mrs Atkins, who joined the academy a few weeks before the summer holiday and Ms Ogden, who is returning to us after her maternity leave. These three colleagues will lead on a pastoral element of the academy which is highlighted in the table below. They will also support and be supported by the existing Heads of Year and their teams as follows:

	Year 7 and Transition	Key Stage 3	Key Stage 4
Senior Leader	Mrs Atkins Responsibility for Year 7, Safeguarding and Inclusion	Ms Ogden Responsibility for Year 8 and Year 9 and Attendance	Mrs Abrahams Responsibility for Year 10 and Year 11, and alternative curriculum
Pastoral Leaders	Head of Year 7: Mr Bristow	Head of Year 8: Mr Janes Head of Year 9: Mrs Teanby	Head of Year 10: Ms Cullum Head of Year 11: Mr Hogarth
Pastoral Support	Student Support Leader: Mrs Seaman	Student Support Leader: Miss Taylor	Student Support Leader: Mr Griffiths

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We will be hopefully adding to this team shortly with the appointment of two further Student Support Leaders.

In addition to these colleagues each student will have a form tutor and we would always suggest contacting the form tutor as the first port of call for any questions you may have.

New Staff

We have also had several other colleagues join the academy over the summer and they include:

Miss Farage (PE Teacher)

Miss Sothard (Science Teacher)

Mr Richardson (Geography Teacher)

Mrs Bowen (English Teacher)

Several of these teachers spent time in the academy before the summer so will be already familiar to our students and we have no doubt they will be made to feel welcome by our students over the coming weeks.

Start of Term Expectations

We are fortunate in the academy that our students often naturally match the high expectations that we have of them in all aspects of academy life. We will be reiterating the key messages to students over the next few days with regards to expectations around behaviour, attendance and their uniform. We have had the same uniform expectations in the academy over the last few years, and whilst we regularly review the expectations, in consultation with the students, we believe these expectations have served the students well. I have attached a reminder of the uniform expectations to this letter and would appreciate your support in helping our students to adhere to these. As a parent myself, I am always conscious that uniform costs can be a significant factor, but we believe that we have a competitively priced uniform with many of the items available from a variety of high street stores. I am also aware that sometimes getting uniform at this time of year due to supply stocks can be difficult too. What we would ask is that if you have concerns, getting hold of appropriate uniform, for whatever reason, to contact the appropriate pastoral team and they will be able to assist you.

The rest of the year...

We are keen that our students have a good start to the term and will be working hard with them over the coming weeks to establish the good routines that we know that they can follow and have come to expect. We will send out shortly key dates as there are several events that will take place through this term, and we would be keen to have your support with these. There will also be other pieces of information communicated from the various teams in the academy and whilst this can be quite overwhelming at the start of the year if you have any questions then please make sure you get in touch with the relevant staff.

We are looking forward to welcoming our students back and look forward to working with you and them over the next academic year to help them be as successful as they can.

Kind regards.



Mr Woodhouse **Miss Thomason**
Executive Principal & Head of Academy