



December 2023

Dear Parent/Carer

As the first term draws to a close, I am writing to give some updates.

### **Attendance**

Despite a strong start to the year, whole-school attendance is slightly lower than we would like it to be; however, the number of students with attendance below 90% is much reduced and better than all schools nationally. This is important because we know the positive impact the good attendance has in achievement. We are grateful for your support in trying to ensure your children attend school as much as possible.

We will be recognising students who have achieved 100% attendance during this term in our end of term assemblies, and students with attendance above 98% for this term are invited to take part in a rewards activity on Thursday 21 December. At the start of next half term, we will be rewarding all students who achieved 100% attendance in half term 2. Your child's year-to-date attendance can be viewed in Class Charts. May I politely remind you that if your child is absent from school, you let us know by phoning reception or emailing the attendance team at [hpaattendance@hallparkacademy.org.uk](mailto:hpaattendance@hallparkacademy.org.uk). If you would like any support with your child's attendance, please contact the attendance team using the same email address, or contact your child's Head of House.

### **Personal development**

This year we have introduced personal development lessons on a rolling programme to further enhance our already excellent personal development provision. This has been a great success. Feedback has been overwhelmingly positive, with students and staff both enjoying the lessons. An overview of personal development topics for the year can be found [here](#).

### **Co-curricular**

Our co-curricular programme, Curriculum Plus, was launched at the beginning of the year. This has been very popular, with many students attending the great events on offer. I would like to take this opportunity to encourage students to get involved in as many activities as possible in the new year. A copy of the Curriculum Plus booklet can be found [here](#).

### **Redhill Academy Trust support**

We are currently fortunate to be benefitting from the support of colleagues working across Redhill Academy Trust schools as they work with our Year 11 students. This has involved intervention sessions, tutoring and period 6 lessons after school. We are certain that students who engage well with this additional support will see a positive impact on the grades that they achieve at the end of the year.

### **Curriculum maps**

If you want to see what your children will be learning about in the new year, curriculum maps, which show what students learn each term, can be found in the curriculum section of the school website, [here](#).

## Arrangements for the end of term

Astle's Christmas Cracker, our annual Christmas talent showcase, takes place at lunchtime on Monday 18 December. Students will be able to pay for a ticket on the door to the theatre and all money raised goes to charity.

Christmas dinner will be served on Wednesday 20 December. Year 7 and 8 students will be given a slightly longer lunch break to ensure all students can get food. There will be no other hot meals served on this day.

We finish this term on **Friday 22 December at 1:30pm**. If you require your child to remain in school until 3:05pm, please contact the school reception so that we can make provision for them.

We re-open after the Christmas holiday on **Thursday 4 January 2024**. Students are expected to be on site at 8:40am, as usual.

I would like to take this opportunity to wish you and your family a very merry Christmas and a happy New Year. Thank you for your continued support of our school.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'D Crossley'.

David Crossley  
**Headteacher**