

January 2023

Dear Parent(s)/Carer(s),

Re: The 'CTA Way' – and what it really means to us.

In September 2019 I began a planned strategy of improvement with the senior team, our teachers and support staff team. We had a visit from Ofsted in September 2019, which honed our focus on the development of a great curriculum and great teaching. In early 2020, the country went into National Lockdown as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic. Our curriculum has been transformed from the offer that we had at Chase Terrace Academy three years ago. We now offer a strong, ambitious and broad range of subjects and the teaching is characteristically good. Our safeguarding practices have been transformed with a new designated Safeguarding Lead and are a model of good practice. The SEND provision has new, strong leadership and has benefited from a wealth of experienced teaching assistants and more recently, additional expertise through John Taylor MAT network links.

Our staff have worked hard to make significant Improvements to our outcomes for students, with 2022 demonstrating our best year of results compared to recent years at both GCSE and A level. Year 11 and 13 students in 2022 left their respective phases of education with results to be proud of.

Following the pandemic we recognized that, as a school, we had limited opportunities to work with other schools and wanted to be part of something bigger and offer more to our staff and students. We worked hard to transfer into a well respected and established, strong Multi Academy Trust. We found this in the John Taylor MAT and the family of schools that we are now part of have already helped our staff and students to access many more chances to get involved with their learning.

Our next step in our strategic plan has been to focus on our values, and the personal development of our children. For this we will need your support. Mr Newman, our new Deputy Headteacher who was appointed to the post in October 2022, and started with us in January 2023, is responsible for 'Culture and Personal Development'. He has already spoken to your children, our students, about this work. To become a great school, we need all of us to pull together and work as a team. We have asked for your support in making sure that your children come to school with the correct uniform and that they have all they need to be prepared for each day. Whilst we can monitor this in school, we need those at home to reinforce the importance of being prepared, organised and turning up ready to work hard each day.

A big part of our work on 'Culture' will be to reinforce our values and ensure that children are kind, hardworking, respectful and tolerant of each other. To enable staff to teach and students to learn, we must focus on the positives and help each other to remain steadfast in our objectives. Every one of our staff at Chase Terrace Academy wants the best for our children – that is why they work here.

There are times when there are derogatory or negative posts on social media about the school, and sometimes even more worryingly, about our children or staff. We talk to our students regularly about the safe and respectful use of social media and this is important to all of us. Respectfully, I ask that parents and carers are very careful about posting offensive or derogatory comments on Facebook or other platforms. This is not going to help the school to become better, and will only result in staff/parents/carers feeling upset and students feeling disheartened about their school. In the event of any concerns please talk to us first. There is a dedicated pastoral team in school who are there to listen, and respond, to concerns, and the school is always here for you and your children. Please do get in touch and arrange a time to talk to us directly if there is something of concern, or equally something to celebrate.

Chase Terrace Academy has always been very proud of its connection with the community. We have set up a CATCH Hub where food parcels are available to all members of our town, regardless of whether a family has a child studying with us or not. Families can access support with their finances, uniform help, learning Maths or reading to support their children, and many other forms of help. This has been run throughout the pandemic and has flourished into a well respected and valuable provision for our families.

As a community – we can only realise our ambition to become a great school by working together, as a partnership. We have renewed our expectations with students in our assemblies this term. We have reminded them of the school they belong to. They do not just turn up to school because it is the law – they turn up because we have great things in store for them when they are here. We want them to learn, be inquisitive, be relentlessly curious and strive for excellence whether students are at school, or in our community.

Our staff are committed to a strong agenda of improvement and we need your help to reinforce our expectations at home too. We will be sending a lot more information home to you with regards to our personal development curriculum via the 'My Child At School' app (MCAS). Please look out for the values survey and tell us your views. There will be a new parent/carer forum in development that will support home and school to work together more collaboratively and we will send more information about this very soon. If you have any difficulties accessing the MCAS App please do get in touch so that we will help.

Since taking over as substantive Headteacher in April this year, I have made it clear to students that we will only accept the best from them. Our staff feel the same – they want the best for our students and I know that as parents/carers, you want the best for your children too.

Together we can achieve excellence.

Kind regards



Ms N Mason
Headteacher