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30th March 2023

Dear Parent(s)/Carer(s),

As we welcome our students back to school at the start of the summer term, we have a few important updates to inform you of.

As you will be aware, now that we are a part of the John Taylor Multi-Academy Trust we are benefiting from a large network of schools that we can collaborate with and have access to many more opportunities for staff and students. On Friday 7th July 2023, JTMAT has a trust wide INSET day which Chase Terrace Academy are a part of. This was calendared as one of Chase Terrace Academy's inset days for this calendar year and formed part of our ongoing professional development and school improvement planning for staff. As such, we will now need to move our planned day to Friday 9th June. This means that students will not be in school on Friday 9th June.

We have previously communicated home about our continuing drive to raise standards and we want to thank parents for supporting us in this with regard to uniform and punctuality. Please continue to support us in ensuring that your child is wearing the correct items to school. As often happens in the final term, some students are beginning to wear items which are not part of our uniform policy. As a reminder, we do not accept tight or skinny jeans style trousers, or cropped trousers. We will issue an infringement notice but will expect parents and carers to support us if trousers are not suitable and do not meet our uniform policy. If you are unsure, please call us and check first. We continue to support families in ensuring uniform continues to be cost effective, and as part of that, we no longer accept trainer style shoes. In the consultation last year, families told us that these are expensive and that students are feeling pressure to wear branded footwear items so we are removing them from our policy. If your children need their footwear replacing this term, please bear this in mind and do not purchase items that will not be suitable. If students come to school in unsuitable shoes/trainers we provide them with alternative items to wear, and parents/carers will be expected to support us and their child to ensure suitable footwear is worn. Can we also remind parents that items such as facial piercings and false nails/eyelashes and nail polish are not permitted.

Over the past term, we have experienced a number of students being persistently late to lessons and this has a direct affect on teaching and learning. We expect students to move promptly between lessons during the day and take the most direct route to their next class. To support with this, please ensure that your child has their timetable each day and is clear about where their lessons are.

To support us in improving our communication home, we ask that any parents that have not yet downloaded the MyChildAtSchool App, do this as soon as possible as this contains the most up to date information for you and your child. All details regarding how to log in and get support are on our website.

I would like to thank all of our families for their support this year. It has, again, been a challenging year for our community with the cost of living increasing so dramatically. We continue to support families with our CATCH room that has food parcels, clothes and advice and support available for all families. If you have the capacity to donate to this, we are always grateful for items that we can use to support others. Equally if you know someone who would benefit from this provision please do ask them to contact us.

This term has given us much to celebrate and be proud of. We have had a number of events that have demonstrated our school values of community, tenacity, aspiration and respect.

The school show, Rock Of Ages was an uplifting display of talent that our whole community got involved in. It was lovely so see so many families joining us to enjoy this performance that students had worked so hard to put together.

Our Duke of Edinburgh programme has recently seen a number of expeditions and assessment weekends take place that have required tenacity and resilience to complete. We would like to thank our staff and the extended team of assessors and trainers that give up their time on a regular basis to support our students.

The ski trip team had a successful and overwhelmingly positive trip to Austria. Our students demonstrated team work, respect, excellence and strong community values across the whole week. A number of other adults, including the Ski Rep from the travel company, commented on the good manners and excellent conduct shown by every student on the trip. The Ski Rep has even requested that they are allocated to our school again next year!

As we approach the summer term, we begin to focus sharply on supporting our students with their final exam preparations. I would like to formally thank our year 11 and year 13 students for their hard work and dedication. The mock exams have given us a really positive indication of the revision and preparation that has already taken place and I look forward to seeing students approach the exams with confidence and determination. Please do not hesitate to contact us if you feel that your child needs support – we know that examinations are always a challenge but we also know our students are more than capable of success.

Finally, I wish you all a lovely Easter break and take time to rest and enjoy time with your families.

We look forward to seeing our students back in school on Monday 17th April.

Best wishes,

Ms N Mason Head of School

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