

Headteacher: Victoria Simcock BA (Hons), PGCE, NPQH

Parkwood E-ACT Academy, Longley Avenue West, Sheffield, S5 8UL

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26th March 2018

Dear Parent/ Carer

I am writing to you to keep you updated following another busy term here at Parkwood. I want to thank all parents who have attended progress evenings and options evenings as well as our celebration events. Please can parents be aware that the academy is open over the Easter holiday as there are classes taking place for the Year 11s who are in their final stages of preparation before their national GCSE examinations. Each student in Y11 will receive a personalised timetable with scheduled Exam Practice Sessions identified. These sessions will be vital in supporting Y11 to achieve the best possible results in the summer examinations.

I know that you will all be aware that Ofsted visited and again has judged Parkwood E-ACT Academy to be a 'GOOD' academy.

Student Uniform

Following consultation with the student body, the decision has been taken to change the current grey school blazer to a black blazer. This means that school trousers and skirts will need to be black - grey will no longer be acceptable.

This will be phased in from September 2018 and as such, all Y7's will wear a black blazer. The current grey blazers can still be worn by Y8-11 and these will be phased out over time. Any parent who needs to purchase a new blazer for their child in Y8-11 next year can take advantage of the fact we have existing stock that we intend to sell at a 50% reduced price for the rest of this academic year.

From September 2018, we will no longer sell grey blazers. Students in all year groups will be able to purchase a new black blazer should they need a new one. These will be available to order online – we will send out further details next half term.

It is not acceptable for any student to customise their uniform either tie or blazer with graffiti and any student who wears uniform that has been defaced will be expected to purchase a new one.

Attendance

Ofsted identified that attendance remains a real concern for us as a school. If your child is not here they are not learning and therefore cannot succeed. This is not acceptable. At Parkwood we **believe** that every child can **achieve** and **succeed** but they must be here to do that. Thus, in line with the DFE and Sheffield City Council's latest policy we are no longer able to authorise term-time leave for any of our students unless under *exceptional* circumstances. If term-time leave is taken, the absence will be recorded as 'unauthorised' and may result in a fine being issued in line with the Sheffield Local Authority guidelines. We do not expect parents to take students away from valuable learning as we do have 13 weeks holiday per year. Furthermore, I need to inform you that, with immediate effect, any absence of 20 days or more may result in your child losing their place at Parkwood. You will then need to re-apply for your child's place through the Admissions Department at the Local Authority. You need to be aware that places may no longer be available in your child's year group as we have a waiting list and as such, it is likely that you will be given a place at another school. Following our recent Ofsted, the academy was awarded a 'Good' judgement which means that more parents will be applying to Parkwood for a place for their child.



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In addition, as part of our drive to improve attendance, students must have a least 95% attendance to be able to go on school trips, access rewards or represent the academy in events during the school day.

Plastics

On April 16th the Academy will cease to sell plastic bottles of juice or water. Instead, we will be issuing every student with a reusable drinks bottle that they can use as water bottles. This is as a result of the student voice and the concern that disposable bottles are having on our environment and planet. As such we will be banning all plastic bottles that are not reusable and I ask for your parental support in changing our habits as a school so that we become more environmentally friendly. Any visitors to the academy will be informed that plastic bottles, are now contraband.

Dates for your diary:

Rewards Event	Thursday 24th May 2018 -2pm (by invite only)
End of Summer term	Friday 20th July 2018.
	<u>Students return on Wednesday 5th September 2018</u>
Non school uniform days	Thursday 29th March/Friday 25th May/Friday 20th July
2018-19 Inset days	Monday 3rd and Tuesday 4th September 2018 will be Inset days. Other Inset days have yet to be arranged and will be communicated as soon as possible.

I hope you all enjoy the Easter break and we look forward to welcoming the students back on **Monday 16th April.**

Yours sincerely

Mrs V Simcock
Headteacher

