



Chapelhouse Road
Chelmsley Wood
Birmingham
B37 5JS
United Kingdom
Telephone Number: 0121 329 4600
solihull@graceacademy.org.uk

27 August 2021

Dear Parent/Carer

RE: Reminders for September 2021 Start

We hope that you and your family have enjoyed a restful summer break and we look forward to welcoming you back to Grace Academy Solihull in September. To help get this new academic year off to a good start, we have put some reminders below regarding various aspects of academy life and especially highlighting any changes that you need to be aware of.

As mentioned in a previous letter, it is our intention to move to a fully paperless system for communicating with parents/carers, to allow us to reduce our carbon footprint and help us work in a more sustainable way, as well as allowing us to save money that can be better utilised for your children. We have now implemented this change in our systems which means that all Parent/Carer information has been automatically set to receive electronic communications only and you have all been opted out of the postal method. However, if you still wish to receive communications by post, please let us know accordingly. In relation to this, could I ask that you ensure we have your most up to date contact information on our system.

Academy Start/End times and Enrichment for September 2021-22

As we look to the return of students to the academy in September we will be reverting back to normal start times for ALL students which will be gates open at **08:20** and students being expected to be in classrooms by **08:25** at the latest to begin their lessons - your support in helping us making a prompt start to the day's learning is appreciated.

Finish times for ALL students will also be reverting to normal which is **14:50** on Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday. As normal on Wednesday the school day will finish at **13:50** for all students who are not signed up for enrichment activities or students in year 11. To support a broad and balanced curriculum offer we will be launching an exciting new range of enrichment opportunities for Wednesday afternoons, starting from **Wednesday 22 September**, more details of which will follow including instructions on how to sign up.

A few other key points to bring to your attention at this time:

- A reminder to please speak to your child about the need for vigilance and an awareness of traffic as they make their way to and from the academy. The amount of traffic continues to build and students need to be aware of their surroundings and avoid being distracted when crossing the road. Where possible, please also advise your child to walk in groups and stay on main roads.
- As an academy we are extremely proud of our students in relation to the reputation they have for their appearance and conduct both locally and regionally. To enable us to continue this reputation we would like to ask that all parents/carers ensure students have all the necessary items of clothing to be able to adhere to the [Academy's uniform policy](#) as explicitly laid out on the academy website. Hoodies and trainers are not allowed in the academy unless otherwise advised. Also as we come into warmer weather please check that skirt lengths are at knee level.

As part of the government's plan to keep the levels of Covid-19 suppressed as the student's return in September, we have been advised that all secondary schools' students will be offered two COVID-19 lateral flow tests from the first week back which will take place in school. Following this government guidance, **the return of pupils will be phased during the first week** to manage the number of pupils passing through the test site at any one time as it is likely that we will be carrying out up to 3000 individual tests in this period. The details of this phased return are outlined below with pupils able to return to face-to-face education following their first negative test result. If your child has been opted in for the testing, **their slot has been**

allocated by surname as per the table below in column two. Please note that if your child will not be taking part in the testing programme, then they do not need to attend the academy until the return date noted in column three. Only students whose parents have completed and returned consent forms will be opted in for testing:

<u>Year Group</u>	<u>Testing Date</u>	<u>Return Date and Time</u>
7	Friday 3rd September Surnames beginning with: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● A-D 09:00 ● E-I 09:45 ● J-N 10:30 ● O-Z 11:15 	Monday 6th September 08:20
11	Monday 6th September Surnames beginning with: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● A-D 10:00 ● E-I 10:30 ● J-N 11:00 ● O-Z 11:30 	Tuesday 7th September 08:20
12	Monday 6th September 09:30	Tuesday 7th September 08:20
13	Monday 6th September 09:00	Tuesday 7th September 10:50
8	Tuesday 7th September Surnames beginning with: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● A-D 09:00 ● E-I 09:30 ● J-N 10:00 ● O-Z 10:30 	Wednesday 8th September 08:20
9	Wednesday 8th September Surnames beginning with: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● A-D 09:00 ● E-I 09:30 ● J-R 10:00 ● S-Z 10:30 	Thursday 9th September 08:20
10	Wednesday 8th September Surnames beginning with: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● A-D 11:00 ● E-I 11:30 ● J-P 12:00 ● Q-Z 12:30 	Thursday 9th September 08:20

As we move closer to our return in September can I ask that you check the website regularly, as any updates or changes will be flagged there when needed. There is already a great deal of useful information on the site including additional work students can complete over the summer, as well as support from a range of agencies we have signposted on the website under [Family Support](#).

We look forward to seeing your child in September with the aim of them having an outstanding educational year at Grace Academy Solihull.

Yours sincerely



Mr Darren Gelder

Principal For and on behalf of Tove Learning Trust