



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

20 October 2021

Dear Parent/Carer,

RE: End of Autumn Term 1 - October 2021

As we draw to the end of our first half term for this academic year, I would like to once again thank you for your support in ensuring our young people were able to return to education in relative normality after the unusual year that we have had.

This half term has seen our new Year 7 cohort welcomed into the Grace Academy Solihull family. The students have settled in well, and we were even able to hold a Welcome Event for parents in place of some of the transition events that could not be held earlier in the year due to the pandemic. Parents and students were invited into the academy for a more formal welcome from myself and the Head of Year 7, followed by a tour of the school, a chance to meet their children's tutors and an informal coffee and chat with members of the senior leadership team. I hope those who attended found this a useful event to gauge how your child has settled into the academy and ask any questions that you may have had.

Some other events of note this term include National Poetry Day on 7 October, which was an excellent opportunity for our students to engage in poetry activities across the school. We have also hosted Primary Sports events that some of our students have helped run, acting as ambassadors for the academy. Our various sports teams are also now back in force with several sports fixtures in the calendar already for the year. Finally after a few years of unsettled school terms, we have now been able to plan and get started on rehearsals for a school production, which this year will be High School Musical. We intend to have three in-person performances from 15 -17 February 2022, more details will be shared closer to the time.

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

- As per Government Guidelines, the academy is still able to provide Lateral Flow tests if you wish for your child/children to continue testing at home over the October half term break. If you would like more test kits, please ask your child to let their tutor know. they will then be able to collect a test kit from reception.
- In line with recent previous communications we would like to alert you to the need to ensure your child is staying safe online and we suggest that you take this half term break to speak to them about their online safety, especially on their mobile phone and other devices. If you would like some guidance with this, please refer to the [safeguarding at home](#) area of our website.
- A reminder again that as we come back to more normal days, can you 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 in the surrounding areas continues to be of concern, so please ask your child to avoid being distracted when crossing the road. Also, where possible, please also advise your child to walk in groups and stay on the main roads.
- I would also like to ask that parents take this half term break to ensure students have all the necessary items of clothing to be able to adhere to the [Academy's uniform policy](#). In particular, please ensure hoodies and trainers are not worn as we come into the colder months and chains/necklaces are not

worn or are made visible on top of the uniform.

- The academy will close for the October half term on **Friday 22 October at 14:50** and will reopen for all students at **08:20 Monday 8 November** as per the term dates on the website.

As an academy we want to ensure that our communication with parents and carers is as good as it can be. We appreciate that there will be times when you need to contact the academy and we would encourage that fully, however we will only be able to respond during our normal working hours. During Academy holidays, staff will not be on site to respond to emails or calls. If the matter is related to an academy issue, I would ask that you contact the academy when it is operational. If the matter is of sufficient urgency and relates to the safety or well being of a child I would advise you to contact the police. A range of additional support services can also be found in the [Family Support](#) or [Safeguarding](#) areas of our website.

Finally, I would like to wish each of you a safe and restful break, and look forward to the students returning to the academy for the Autumn 2 term.

Yours sincerely



Mr Darren Gelder

Principal

For and on behalf of Tove Learning Trust