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Dear Parent/Carer,

### RE: End of year letter

I write as we come to the end of another academic year, in which we have returned to a more normal way of life following the disruption caused by the pandemic. This was our first year in a while in which students have sat external GCSE and A Level examinations following the pandemic. Students have risen to the challenge by putting in an immense amount of hardwork and effort. No doubt students' results will reflect these efforts in the coming weeks. We have also been able to have our Year 11 Prom this year, along with our upcoming Drayton Manor Rewards Trip and an academy Sports Day. The Queen's Jubilee was also celebrated with the community where an afternoon tea was provided for some of the older generations of local residents. Our careers provision work has been recognised regionally, with the careers team receiving an award in acknowledgment of the outstanding work they do to support our students. We are extremely proud of our school and the students that come here and this was evidenced in our recent "good" Ofsted inspection where they commented that "pupils are at the heart of everything we do".

A few other good news stories that I am pleased to share with you include the Summer School programme that we will be running again this year for our new Year 7 cohort. We look forward to showing the students what life at secondary school will be like and have a large variety of exciting activities for them to experience. Many students have taken up the opportunity to be part of our school led tutoring programme across this term, demonstrating good progress in the areas they have received support. In addition to this our Academy Sports Teams have also had a successful year, coming 3rd in the county for girls football and being awarded Silver for School Games Mark for commitment to school sport.

A few key points to note as we approach the summer break:

- The final day of this term will be **Friday 22 July**, which will be our 'Sports and Activities Day' where all students will be given the option to either participate in a range of sporting events or complete various sporting classroom activities. All students are expected to come to school in their Grace Academy PE kit, and to bring plenty of water and sun cream with them. Students will be leaving the site at 12:00 to start their summer break.
- As we move towards the summer, 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. 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 the main roads.
- Please remember to be vigilant with your child's online safety and continue checking that what they are accessing is suitable and age appropriate. There are a number of online resources that can be used either on our website and in particular our 'parents space' page <https://sites.google.com/graceacademy.org.uk/family-support/home>

- I would also like to ask that parents take this summer 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, chains/necklaces are not worn or visible on top of the uniform and all uniform meets our expectations, as noted in the Uniform policy.
- Results Days will be in person this year with A Level Results day being on **Thursday 18 August** and GCSE Results Day on **Thursday 25 August**. Details for these days will also be sent in a separate letter and noted on [the academy website](#).
- We will be setting up a uniform collection point on the final day for parents who would like to donate any uniform that their children have outgrown and is still in good condition. These articles of clothing will be used to support any families who may be in need of extra help in the coming year.
- As previously advised we will be extending our school day on a Wednesday from September which will now finish for all students at 14:50 in line with the other school days. Students will still have the opportunity to access a wide range of enrichment activities after school throughout the week.
- The new school year will commence on Monday 5 September for staff only. With students returning in a staggered return as noted below to support transition:

<u>Date</u>	<u>Plan for the day</u>
Monday 5 September	INSET Day 1: STAFF ONLY ON SITE
<b>Tuesday 6 September</b>	<b>Years 7 &amp; 12 only to attend from 8:20 am</b>
<b>Wednesday 7 September</b>	<b>Year 7 only to attend from 8.20 am</b> <b>All other year groups to attend from 10:30 am</b>
Thursday 8 September	All year groups to attend from 8:20 am as normal

All other term dates and inset days for the new academic year can be found on the academy website.

Finally, may I take this opportunity to acknowledge the efforts of all of our students, who not only continue to impress the staff at Grace, but external visitors to the site as well. I hope that you all have a restful break and look forward to the sun giving all of us a much needed positive boost in the coming weeks as we head towards the summer. We continue to acknowledge and thank all parents/carers for the support they provide and look forward to working together again in the next academic year.

Yours sincerely



Mr Darren Gelder

**Principal**

**For and on behalf of Tove Learning Trust**