

July 2017

Dear Parent/Carer/Student,



Another academic year is due to come to an end and the summer holidays are almost upon us.

It has been a challenging year for everyone at George Salter Academy and many students have been preparing for external exams (e.g. GCSE, A Levels etc.). Whilst all of this has been happening there have been many other changes to embrace at the Academy.

The Academy was rated as Inadequate by Ofsted in March 2016. It is now rated Good and you will all have seen the report. It was very positive about everything the Academy had achieved in a very short space of time.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all those involved in helping to attain this, and in particular the staff, governors and students. Without everyone working together we would not have achieved this.



The successes of George Salter Academy this year go well beyond the Ofsted inspection. Our students continue to excel. Sporting achievements have been incredible with us being crowned Sandwell indoor and outdoor athletics champions, the Year 9's becoming the Black Country indoor athletics champions, the under 16's boys and girls basketball teams becoming Sandwell and Black Country champions and all of our netball teams winning their respective Sandwell leagues. We also ended the sporting year with Sports Day on Friday 30<sup>th</sup> June, which was a great day and a very close contest between the Houses. Ultimately, Trinity prevailed for the 3<sup>rd</sup> year running!

We have also seen two excellent performances with Les Miserables and, more recently, Grease. The Grease production last week ran for three nights, though the cast did five full productions, one to the new students coming into Year 7 in September and one to the George Salter students in Year 8. It was a superb production and a fitting end to the year. I thank all of the students, staff and vast group of helpers who enabled this to happen.

As we move into the next academic year we say goodbye to a number of staff who are either moving on to promoted posts or retiring. We wish them all well in their new pursuits, whatever they may be, and thank them for all they have done at George Salter Academy. We have been very successful in replacing these staff members and we look forward to welcoming new staff in September.

### **New Year System**

From September, students will be managed in Year Groups rather than Houses. The houses will still exist and students will be linked to a house, but there will no longer be Heads of House (as they are currently) and Pastoral Managers. Instead, we will have Heads of Year and Student Welfare Managers for each year group. This will mean that the focus will be on individual year groups. This will provide a much more specialised focus; for example, the Head of Year 11 and the Student Welfare Manager will focus on preparing the year group for external exams and life after Year 11.



The Heads of Year and Student Welfare Managers will be as follows:

Year	Head of Year	Student Welfare Manager
7	Mr Cadwallader	Ms Jones
8	Mr Ward	Ms Cotton
9	Mrs Bibb	Mr Williamson
10	Mrs Jadayel	Mrs Webb
11	Mrs Field	Mrs Cook

### School Day Times

You will all have received consultation documents regarding our changed school day timings, especially for Wednesday. On the whole the vast majority of the feedback on this was in favour of the proposal. We have investigated some of the concerns and monitored the situation and are confident that the slightly shortened lunch will work (this was the main area of concern). The school day times are as follows:

Monday, Tuesday*, Thursday and Friday		Wednesday	
Period	Times	Period	Times
Form	8:40 – 9:00	Form	8:40 – 9:00
Period 1	9:00 – 9:50	Period 1	9:00 – 9:50
Period 2	9:50 – 10:40	Period 2	9:50 – 10:40
Break	10:40 – 11:00	Break	10:40 – 11:00
Period 3	11:00 – 11:50	Period 3	11:00 – 11:50
Period 4	11:50 – 12:40	Period 4	11:50 – 12:40
Lunch	12:40 – 13:20	Period 5	12:40 – 13:30
Period 5	13:20 – 14:10	Lunch	13:30 – 14:00 – <b>School Finishes</b>
Period 6	14:10 – 15:00	Enrichment	14:00 – 15:00

On Wednesdays, students will be permitted to go home to study at 1.55pm. It is important that they do just that. Students who cause issues and do not comply with this will not be permitted to leave the Academy at this time. In addition, detentions will also take place for students on Wednesday afternoons.

### Uniform

High standards of uniform and appearance are essential in any school and this year we have seen much improvement. Thank you to all of you for your support with this. We will continue to enforce our uniform over the next few months and I want to make you aware of some of these aspects:

- Shoes – students must wear plain, black school shoes. These must be shoes that fully cover the foot and are strong and sturdy. This excludes all trainers and trainer-type footwear, as well as boots and open girl's "dolly" shoes. Please avoid purchasing such footwear for the next academic year. The Academy has a wide stock of correct footwear for students who do not comply with the uniform requirements. Photos of the correct type of footwear are on the GSA website. Students have already been made aware of this.
- Earrings, jewellery, nose studs etc. –
  - One pair of small PLAIN studs or PLAIN sleeper earrings. (PLEASE NOTE THE STUDS MUST BE SMALL AND PLAIN AND ONLY ONE IN EACH EAR)
  - One small signet ring
  - One bracelet of religious significance
  - A watch
  - No facial studs or visible body piercing allowed
  - All jewellery must be removed for P.E. and handed to a member of staff for safekeeping.

- The Academy ruling on dyed hair is that hair can be dyed a natural colour. Any student arriving at the Academy with hair in breach of this rule will be kept out of circulation at break and lunchtime until the issue is resolved.
- Make-up – students have never been allowed to wear make-up and any students doing so will be asked to remove it.
- We only allow black trousers which should not be tight or jeggings/jeans style.
- Black skirts must come to below the knee (i.e. when the student is kneeling the skirt must touch the floor). They must be school skirts and not tight fitting.
- One of the biggest causes of grievance between students, and therefore a major obstacle to their education, is mobile phones. The academy rules on **Mobile phones and portable media devices** are very clear:
  - Students should not bring valuable items into the Academy (e.g. mobile phones, personal music players, etc.) as we cannot be held responsible if they are lost or stolen.
  - If a student is caught using a mobile phone or other portable media device on school premises at any time they will be confiscated and not returned until the following day

The standards of uniform and behaviour are already high within the academy but we believe that, working with you, we can tighten them still further. This will lead to a smoother running school where we can focus even more sharply on making your child's education as successful and enjoyable as we possibly can. If you are unsure about any of the issues raised above please do not hesitate to contact us before purchasing any items that might cause issues.

Thank you for your continued support with regards these matters. I hope you all understand the importance of these rules especially with regard to the health and safety of the young people within the Academy.

### **GSA Expansion and potential new building**

GSA continues to be a very popular school. All of our year groups are above the planned numbers and we get requests daily from parents and carers who would like their children to attend the Academy. For the new Year 7 intake, we had over 600 applications for 200 places and many were disappointed at not getting a place. There is a great demand to attend GSA.

In order to accommodate this demand, we have agreed to take 50 more students in Year 7 from 2019/20. As a result, we have secured £4 million to build an additional building on our campus.

This is an exciting prospect and will undoubtedly bring more resources and facilities.

### **New Pitches and Astroturf**



At present we are having a considerable amount of building work done.

The old Astroturf pitches have been removed and are being replaced with new 3G pitches. Working with Sport England and the Football Foundation, GSA has secured a £550,000 investment to allow this project to happen. The pitches will be ready to use by September.



In addition, GSA has secured some of the nearby disused parkland. This be converted to two new football pitches. They will be worked on over the summer period and new grass will be planted. They will be ready for use in June 2018.

We envisage that this will also bring together greater partnerships with the Albion Foundation and local clubs such as Tantany Lions. We look forward to the new opportunities that this will bring.

## School Calendar

Below are the term dates for next year. There are 5 training days and there is an additional Progress Review Day. Acting on parental feedback, we had many requests for a review on how students were progressing and settling in, so we have put in a Progress Review Day on 1<sup>st</sup> December 2017.

During this year we have had a few requests for term-time absences for holidays. In line with Government guidelines, absences during term time will not be authorised unless exceptional circumstances prevail.

Term Dates 2017 - 2018		
From	To	
Autumn Term		Other dates
Wednesday 6 <sup>th</sup> September	Friday 20 <sup>th</sup> October	Monday 4 <sup>th</sup> September – Staff Training Day
Monday 30 <sup>th</sup> October	Wednesday 20 <sup>th</sup> December	Tuesday 5 <sup>th</sup> September – Staff Training Day Progress Review Day – Friday 1 <sup>st</sup> December (to be confirmed/finalised)
Spring Term		
Wednesday 3 <sup>rd</sup> January	Friday 16 <sup>th</sup> February	Tuesday 2 <sup>nd</sup> January – Staff Training Day
Monday 26 <sup>th</sup> February	Thursday 29 <sup>th</sup> March	
Summer Term		
Tuesday 17 <sup>th</sup> April	Friday 25 <sup>th</sup> May	Monday 16 <sup>th</sup> April – Staff Training Day
Monday 4 <sup>th</sup> June	Friday 20 <sup>th</sup> July	Monday 2 <sup>nd</sup> July – Staff Training Day

## Results Days

Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> August – As/A2/Voc Post 16 results day (10am – 12 noon)

Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> August – GCSE results day (10am – 12 noon)

School Uniform will be on sale at the Academy on these dates in the foyer area.

Results will be give out in the Green Room at the front of school.

## Start of Term

Monday 4 <sup>th</sup> September	Training Day - Staff Only	
Tuesday 5 <sup>th</sup> September	Training Day - Staff Only	
Wednesday 6 <sup>th</sup> September	Academy open to all students for the start of the Academic Year:	
	Year 7	8.45am - Students meet at front of the Academy and go to the Green Room
	Year 8	10.00am – Students go to their Form Room
	Year 9	10.00am – Students go to their Form Room
	Year 10	10.00am – Students go to their Form Room
	Year 11	10.00am – Students go to their Form Room.
	Year 12	8.45am – Students go to the Common Room.
	Year 13	10.00am – Students go to the Common Room.

**Last Day of Term**

The last day of this term will be Friday 21<sup>st</sup> July. There will be an early finish on that day and school will end at 12.00 noon for students. ***Students will be required to go home at that time and not go shopping, etc. Please could you clarify this with your son/daughter?***

***It is vital that you return the reply slip at the end of this letter acknowledging this.***

The last day will also be a non-uniform day which has been organised by the students in Loxdale House. It is optional as to whether students participate in this but any students who do not will need to be in normal uniform. There will be a £1.00 donation for any student who wishes to take part and it is important that students dress appropriately and sensibly; students not doing so will be isolated.

**GSA Opening Times during the Holidays**

During the holiday period, there will be a great deal of site development happening and there will only be a skeleton staff. As a result, there will be no Reception available at this time. We will be open on results days; the 17<sup>th</sup> August and 24<sup>th</sup> August.

***Finally.....***

This has been an excellent year for the Academy, its students and its staff.

I would like to thank you all for your continued support of George Salter Academy. Without your support, our ability to provide your young people with what they deserve is greatly reduced.

I would like to wish you all a very pleasant summer holiday.

Yours sincerely,



Mr. P. Patel  
Principal

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**REPLY SLIP - George Salter Academy – Summer 2017 Newsletter**

Name of Student .....

Form .....

I have received the Summer 2017 Newsletter regarding Academy matters and events, uniform, rules. I agree to my son/daughter leaving school at 12.00 noon on Friday 21<sup>st</sup> July 2017.

Signed ..... (Parent / Carer)

Date .....