22nd September 2023

It was lovely to meet many of the Year 7 parents at our settling in evening this week the students have had a very successful start to their time at Cliff Park.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your continued support and share some information about forthcoming events / dates for your diary.

**Meeting with a member of staff**

We aim to respond to phone calls and emails within 48 hours prioritising those that have a safeguarding concern – we ask for your patience, we will get back to everyone as soon as possible.

If you would like to meet in person with a member of staff - please call the academy in advance to book an appointment. We are sorry but we are unable to see parents who come to reception without an appointment with the exception of Wednesday mornings when you can ask to see the Principal or a member of the Senior Leadership team during the advertised drop-in session.

May I also remind parents that students booking in or out during the day need to use the student reception and not the main reception. Thank you for your cooperation.

**Parent Governor Vacancy**

We currently have a vacancy for a parent governor at the academy.

Being a governor at your child’s school can be very rewarding! Please do not worry if you have no experience in education matters, as full training and support are available from Ormiston Academies Trust and your colleagues on the governing body.

If you are interested, please see letter and application form attached to this email.

**The Papillon Project**

The Papillon Project are an educational charity that promotes sustainable living and environmental awareness for young people.

We are fortunate that they have agreed to work with Cliff Park Academy as one of their key schools for the 2023/24 academic year.

Their aim is to inspire young people to grow their own food for themselves and their local community.

The project leader, Matt Willer, is inspirational in his teaching and will be leading voluntary groups, namely The DofE group and The Eco-Club, to help rejuvenate a run-down area of the school.

Matt will also be working with a handful of students during the school day to introduce new skills in line with the project aims.

**DofE Bronze and Silver**

A reminder of a meeting for Year 9 and Year 10 pupils signed up for or interested in the DofE scheme. This will be on Monday 25th September at 5pm in the school hall. It is open to both bronze and silver DofE participants. You if you need any further information about the evening, please email ccormack@cliffparkoa.co.uk

**Download class charts to track your child’s behaviour and achievements**

Class Charts will provide you with real-time information about your child’s achievements and informs you of any behaviour concerns immediately, if and when they happen. If you do not have an access code for Class Charts please contact reception.

You can access Class Charts by navigating to: <https://www.classcharts.com/parent/login>

**Parent Pay Reminder – Student Lunches**

Please can you ensure that there is sufficient funds loaded onto your child's parent pay each day for their lunch to avoid any disappointment.   If you have any problems with parent pay please do not hesitate to contact the main office who will be happy to assist you.

**Parent Forum**

Thank you to the parents who attended the Parent Forum last term. The first Parent Forum for the academic year will be taking place via Microsoft Teams on **Thursday 9th November starting at 6.00PM.** A link will be sent to all parents closer to the time.

**Reminder of Upcoming Important Dates**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Date**  | **Event**  |
| Thursday 28th September | Year 11 Parents Evening (1 of 2) |
| Thursday 5th October | Year 6 Open Evening |
| **Friday 21st October** | **October Half Term** |
| Thursday 9th November  | Online Parent Forum |
| Monday 13th November to Thursday 23rd November | Year 11 Mock Examinations |
| Thursday 23rd November | Presentation Evening |
| Friday 24th November | Teacher Training Day |
| **Thursday 20th November** | **End of Autumn Term** |

**Improving attendance and Punctuality**

I would like to remind all parents and carers of their responsibilities to ensure that your child(ren) attend school every day. **Attendance is mandatory for all pupils of compulsory school age. This means it is your legal duty as a parent to send your child to school regularly.** By supporting your child’s attendance you will be supporting your child to achieve.

Please refer to the following table to calculate the impact of absence on your child’s attendance to lesson and missed learning:

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **An absence of ….** | **Leads to …** | **Which is**  | **%** |
| Missing a morning or afternoon session every two weeks. | 2 weeks of school missed over a full academic year or 50 hours of learning missed | 23 weeks of school missed over your child’s five year school career or 575 hours of learning missed | 95 |
| Missing a day of school every two weeks | 4 weeks of school missed over a full academic year or 100 hours of learning missed | 47 weeks of school missed over your child’s five year school career or 1,175 hours of learning missed | 90 |
| Missing a day of school every week | 8 weeks of school missed over a full academic year or 200 hours of learning missed  | 91 weeks of school missed over your child’s five year school career or 2,275 hours of learning missed | 80 |

It is worth nothing that academic research suggests that just 17 days of absence across a five year school career will lead to a 1 grade reduction is academic performance for each of their subjects.

Our expectation for **school attendance in 2023/24 is 96% and above for all students**. We would like to see as many students as possible reach the 100% threshold and receive additional rewards and incentives for their hard work and commitment.

Students must be on site by **8.25am**. Students who are late to school without a parental note or valid reason will be issued with a sanction on the same day that they arrived late to school.

**Food Bank**

**If you find yourselves in need of additional support around food and toiletries, please contact the school office and we can arrange a food parcel for collection at our reception.** The reception telephone number is 01493661504 or email enquiries@cliffparkoa.co.uk

**Wednesday Morning Parent / Carer Drop In**

Parents / Carers are welcome to drop into the academy to meet with myself or a member of my Senior Team every Wednesday. **You do not need to make an appointment, please just come to reception between 8.50 and 9.30 am and I/we will be happy to meet with you**. I understand the crucial role that parents play in a community school and welcome discussion on any aspect of our school community.

Thank you for supporting us in maintaining the high standards that we know you expect from Cliff Park Ormiston Academy.

Yours sincerely

H French

Principal

**see below term dates for 2023 - 2024**

