

29th March 2021

Dear families,

As we finish the Spring term, I would like to thank you again for your continued support over the past few weeks. Both you and the pupils of Charter have adapted to all that we have been asked to do. Whether delivering lessons virtually or running a testing centre. The dedication from our pupils and staff to continue their learning under such challenging circumstances has been remarkable.

Over the Easter break, we will continue to run a track and trace system in the event of being notified of a positive case. We ask that your child continues to carry out their home COVID tests twice weekly. The dates we would like your child to test are Wednesday 31st March, Sunday 4th April, Wednesday 7th April and Sunday 11th April, the day before they return to school. Please notify the school by emailing [office@gyca.org.uk](mailto:office@gyca.org.uk) if your child shows a positive test result at any time. This will enable us to continue to work together to protect and support our pupils, their families and the wider academy community.

Our teachers and pupils are working hard to catch up on the curriculum areas that were either not covered or not learnt well enough during the spring term. We are committed to ensuring all our pupils begin the next academic year with the knowledge and skills they need to achieve in all subjects, regardless of the challenges seen working from home or returning to school. Our approach since returning has meant that some pupils have been moving classes to cover specific missed content. We expect to resume normal classes as soon as possible once we are confident that all pupils have secured the knowledge they need to achieve well in their future, despite working through an extraordinary year.

We are preparing our Year 11 pupils for their final assessments and portfolios across all GCSE and BTEC qualifications. Pupils are due to complete their BTEC portfolios by the beginning of May. They will then begin a series of short written assessments for each subject staggered over a period of four weeks. Year 11 parents you will also receive a separate letter sharing more detail on this today.

Due to the National Lockdown we have been slightly relaxed about uniform, however pupils have been reminded of these expectations. We understand the difficulty surrounding buying uniform items at the current moment in time. However, we do expect pupils to look smart and feel comfortable in their uniform. If you have any issues with purchasing uniforms please contact your child's Head of Year. We expect to see everyone in uniform from Monday 12th of April.

For clarity, pupils are not allowed to wear the following:

- Shoes: trainer like shoes, any large branding, colour flashes or boots of any type.
- Trousers with very tight fitting legs, jeans, leggings, jeggings, jogging or tracksuits, pin-stripe or cords.
- Skirts above knee length. When kneeling skirts should skim the ground.
- Knee socks are not allowed. Ankle socks and longer socks worn under the knee are allowed.
- Only Charter rucksacks are permitted. No other bags are to be used.
- Hooded tops or the type that are often referred to as 'hoodies', are not to be worn over or under blazers. These will be confiscated.

### **Jewellery**

A plain, subtle watch is allowed. Pupils should not wear anything with access to the internet or anything similar to a fitbit or Apple Watch or Smart Watch. Pupils may wear one small plain round stud in each ear. These are only acceptable in the lobe in a very traditional position. No other jewellery should be worn. If a pupil is found to be wearing excessive jewelry they will receive a uniform detention and be asked to remove the item. If a pupil refuses to follow the instructions they will be placed in Internal Inclusion for the remainder of the day.

### **Make-up & Nail Varnish**

Pupils may wear a small amount of discrete foundation in natural colours, but the academy may ask students to remove any make up staff consider to be inappropriate. Nail varnish and/or extensions are not permitted. **No eye makeup or eyebrow make up is allowed.**

### **Haircuts**

As a school, we have been extremely flexible on hair cuts in the current pandemic. From April 12th, barbers and hairdressers will open up. We will be giving a grace period to allow pupils to get their haircut as we understand barbers/hairdressers will be very busy. However, pupils must follow our clear guidelines on haircuts once they are given the opportunity for this to happen. If a pupil arrives at school with an unacceptable haircut, they will be placed into Internal Isolation and parental contact will be made to rectify the issue as soon as possible. Once the issue has been resolved, they will return to their timetabled lessons.

Haircut guidelines are as follows:

- No unnatural colours of any kind
- No mixed colours or colour fades.
- Cuts should not include shaved sides and long hair on top.
- Pupils should not have any lines or waves shaved into their hair

Students are due to return to school on Monday 12th April. Starting times and entrances will remain as they have this term, with our students in Years 10 and 11 starting at 08.20 and students in Years 7, 8 and 9 starting at 08.40

Can I take this opportunity to wish you all a restful and enjoyable Easter break, should you have any concerns or questions over the holiday period please email the school office on [office@gyca.org.uk](mailto:office@gyca.org.uk).

Best wishes



**Mr K Blakey**

Principal