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Headteacher: Mr S Yalden BSc (Hons) PGCE NPQH

Our Ref: SYA/HWI

15 April 2024

Dear Parent/Carer

I hope that you have had a lovely Easter break. I wanted to start the term by highlighting some key information for the weeks ahead.

Staff changes

This term sees the arrival of a number of new teaching staff. Mrs Gardner joins us as Teacher of Technology in Food. Mrs Gardner will also be working with some families supporting those students with SEND, especially at Key Stage 3. Mr Thompson joins us as Teacher of Technology to teach Engineering and Resistant Materials and finally Miss Jarman joins us as Teacher of English. We look forward to working with these experienced teachers who are specialists in their field and the opportunities they will bring our students. We also welcome Mrs Tyndale-Powell as Administrator who will be supporting our pastoral team.

Tutor group changes

The commencement of these new staff means some changes in terms of tutors for the foreseeable future. This effects the following tutor groups:

9KEV – now tutored by Mrs Fowkes

10PEN – now tutored by Mr Thompson

10TRE – now tutored by Miss Jarman

Parent/carers survey

We really value your feedback and so please can I encourage you to share your views in our latest parental questionnaire. <https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=ZKLe98vXME-Y4S7bInjfZCX-Clz8rWZKj389n95NMORUMIE1RFhIRTJLRVI3MVhKN0E2VTQwVzJZNS4u> This will remain open over the course of the next fortnight to give you plenty of time to let us know your thoughts on the positives and areas for improvement for the academy. We are always looking to improve the quality of the provision we offer and your views are crucial to our improvement planning.

Uniform

We have high standards of uniform at the academy and I would ask for your support in ensuring that your child attends with the appropriate essential items. Arriving with the correct uniform ensures that each day and lesson starts positively. Where providing such items to correct uniform issues at short notice is a challenge, we can provide uniform support so that issues are resolved almost immediately. Do contact your child's tutor should that support be required. Please refer to our website for a comprehensive list of the uniform expected. <https://www.looe.cornwall.sch.uk/information/uniform-and-equipment>

Attendance

Attendance is key to making good progress at secondary school. Please do let us know if there is any support required to deal with any absence your child might be experiencing. At the end of last term our Education Welfare Officer, Helen Priestley, joined the Trust and I know she has reached out to many families to support in resolving absence. It is really helpful to us if you can proactively let us know the reason for any absence using our telephone number (01503 262625) or contact our attendance officer Jackie Martin on jmartin@looea.net.

You can monitor your child's attendance to the academy and to lessons using the Satchel One App. Please do let us know if you have not yet accessed that system and would like support in that regard.

At the academy, we recognise that there are occasions when it is appropriate to authorise an absence, such as when a student is genuinely too ill to attend school, has a medical appointment that cannot be taken outside of school hours or a request for leave has been agreed in exceptional circumstances. However, the Government does not support parents/carers taking children out of school unless the school agrees this is appropriate under 'exceptional circumstances'. Any request for leave should be made in writing to myself using the form available on the attendance area of our website.

<https://www.looe.cornwall.sch.uk/information/attendance>

If you decide to still take your child out of school, without permission, you will be committing an offence under the Education Act 1996. We may refer the matter to Cornwall Council who may decide to take legal action against you. A penalty notice can be issued under Section 444A and 444B of the Education Act 1996. This carries a fine per parent, per child of £60 if paid within 21 days or £120 if paid after this but within 28 days. Failure to pay the penalty notice may result in Court action. Persistent absences not authorised by the school may result in a prosecution in the Magistrates' Court, leading to fines up to £2,500 and/or custodial sentences. The Council may also apply for the costs incurred in taking the matter to Court. You are welcome to contact the academy to discuss any concerns you may have regarding this or if you feel you would like advice or support in helping your child attend more regularly. The academy is committed to maximising the education of all its students and aims to work with parents and carers to ensure this can be achieved.

This will be a busy and exciting term with lots of opportunities ahead as we prepare Year 10 and 11 for their exams and finish the year with Challenge Week.

I thank you for your continued support and look forward to meeting you at forthcoming events.

Yours faithfully



Mr Scott Yalden
Headteacher