



The Shared Learning Trust

THE CHALK
HILLS ACADEMY

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Our Ref: LLE/get

20 June 2018

Dear Parents and Carers,

Re: Ofsted Inspection of The Chalk Hills Academy

I am writing to inform you of the outcome regarding our recent Ofsted inspection at The Chalk Hills Academy, which took place on the 9th and 16th May 2018 respectively.

I am delighted to announce that the Academy was graded 'Good' in all areas outlined within the evaluation schedule. Judgements were made regarding the quality of teaching learning and assessment, personal development, behaviour and welfare, outcomes for pupils, provision for 16-19 study programmes and the effectiveness of leadership and management. Provision for those students who have disabilities and special educational needs, as well as spiritual, moral, social and cultural development were also inspected.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of our students, hardworking staff, governors and The Shared Learning Trust for their support and commitment to ensuring the provision for our young people at The Chalk Hills Academy continues to be good.

The full report can be read on the Ofsted website and also via our Academy website. Please click on the Ofsted link below for the full report:

<https://reports.ofsted.gov.uk/inspection-reports/find-inspection-report/provider/ELS/135337>

Curriculum Organisation and Timetabling from September 2018

There will be two changes to our curriculum organisation and timetable from September. The most obvious will be a move to a two week timetable. Students will follow a **Week A** timetable, then a **Week B** timetable the following week – these may be slightly different to each other. This is a practice adopted by the vast majority of secondary schools and gives us more flexibility when allocating curriculum time to subjects. In particular, we have increased the time allocated to English and Maths, so that students can develop these core skills.

The second change is a reorganisation of the current banding system in Key Stage 4. Students will continue to be "set" in core subjects according to their academic performance but will no longer be placed in bands. The banding system restricts flexibility when setting students and encourages them to have a fixed mind-set about their ability, which in turn can limit achievement. For timetabling purposes, each year group will be split into 3 mixed ability "sides" – X, Y and Z – these sides will have students achieving the full range of grades. These sides will then have top, middle and bottom sets for English, Maths and Science. The benefits of this are that students can move up (and down) sets when it is appropriate for them to do so and be placed in different sets for different subjects – so that all students receive the appropriate support and challenge. For next year only, we will be retaining the band system in Year 11 to avoid any disruption during their examination year.

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Curriculum Organisation & Updates Years 7 & 8

The Academy has dedicated recent planning time to reviewing and innovating the current KS3 curriculum. Departments have revised every unit to ensure they are focused on essential knowledge complete with supportive home learning activities, key vocabulary and ample opportunity to develop, recall and challenge misconceptions and learning. The result: structured, streamlined and engaging curriculum documentation and lessons. By focusing on crucial subject matter, departments hope to commit more knowledge to our students' long-term memory providing them with a stronger foundation of core information to build on, allowing for deeper learning and rapid progress.

The Chalk Hills Academy 'Moving on Up' Transition Days Thursday 5th & Friday 6th July

The theme for this year's Transition is Hobbycraft's current initiative 'The Great British Button Challenge'. Two days of exciting and stimulating sessions have been created, designed to welcome our upcoming Year 6 students and provide them with a flavour of high school. The days will include experiments in Science, poetry writing in English, map work in Geography as well as an e-safety presentation, a basic sewing workshop, the opportunity to watch the Academy dance show and much more. The Academy looks forward to welcoming all our new students to the school community.

Yours sincerely,



Louise Lee
Principal