

November 2022

Dear Parents/ Carers and Pupils

Following a successful first half-term across the academy, we would like to share with you some of our developments and assure you all that we remain totally focused on delivering our vision through the provision of a “world class” education for your children. We hope that you are seeing and hearing about many of the improvements from the pupils in addition to the various social media platforms, where we regularly post updates about the amazing contributions our young people and staff are making across the academy.

Our lunchtime activities programme is now up and running and many pupils are accessing the plethora of clubs available. These include, Air Fix Modelling, Netball, Match Attax, LGBTQ+ Club, Feminism Club, Young Carers, Book Club, Cooking Club, Cinema Club, to name but a few. We are keen for all pupils to join in and will endeavour to provide staff to run any clubs that pupils require, which currently don't exist. The activities directory can be found at the foot of this letter and pupils can speak to their Year Teams if they require any further information.

We have a thriving Youth Dreams Project and Boxing Futures programme running within the academy. Pupils from Years 7 to 11 are being given the opportunity to work with external coaches and mentors, building self-confidence, learning about the importance of teamwork, self-discipline and using sport as a means to address positive mental attitude and mindfulness. These programmes will continue for the remainder of the academic year and places will be offered to pupils, by invitation.

We have led an extended PSHE programme through tutor time, highlighting the importance of mutual respect and keeping each other safe, raising the awareness of Anti-Racism, Anti-Sexism Anti-Discrimination and Anti-bullying across our school community and how to report a concern. We ask all pupils to help us STAMP OUT BULLYING by emailing concerns to:

stampoutbullying@stangroundacademy.org

Pupils, parents and carers can email Deputy Heads of Year with any concerns. We will respond and act on any concerns that are brought to our attention. The academy is also in the early phase of designing a ‘Hear me, Help me’ platform. This will be an online reporting system that pupils, parents/ carers and other trusted adults can access 24/7 and will alert key members of staff to concerns relating to peer-on-peer abuse, sexual harassment and assault, physical and emotional abuse, neglect and all other safeguarding concerns. As soon as we are ready to launch this, we will be in touch.

Our academy reward system is thriving. Since the launch of Aspire Points in September, our staff have issued over 81,000 points to pupils across the academy. It is great to see them also spending their points on ‘non-uniform’ days, Power League passes, lunch queue passes and on tickets to watch England Football matches, on giant TV screens in the 2022 Qatar Football World Cup. The reward list is extensive, and we continue to encourage pupils to help us shape their reward system.

Our Home learning programme is now up and running across the academy. Pupils are being set weekly home learning tasks on TEAMS, across all subjects and the pupil's participation is being monitored daily by form tutors. Pupils have access to Knowledge Organisers to assist them with home learning tasks. We also offer home learning clubs after school in the library where pupils can access support with their work as and when required. This remains a priority across the academy and will continue to develop home learning going forward.

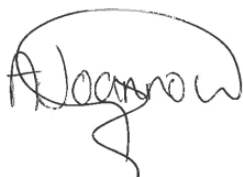
The ban on mobile phones across the academy has been a resounding success. We are so proud of how our pupils have embraced this significant change to their daily school lives. We are also very grateful for the overwhelming parental/ carer support in enforcing this across the academy. Mobile phones are simply not seen on most days across the academy. When they are, which is very rare, our 'See it, Hear it, Take it' policy is implemented, and pupils cooperate and collaborate with staff. The number of incidents of social media abuse and misuse has declined significantly, simply put they are no longer a distraction to the teaching and progress of our young people.

Uniform standards have improved significantly, most of our pupils wear their uniform with pride, they look smart, professional and are positive role models in our community. We reward and recognise the pupils who consistently look so smart – Thank You! However, it is not yet perfect and following much positive communication and where necessary contact home, we have decided to amend our uniform policy. From Monday 21 November 2022 failure to meet our agreed academy uniform standards (found at the foot of this letter), will be issued with a same day correction.

Our 31 new members of teaching staff are now fully integrated into the academy, and we can see how all staff are working hard to deliver our vision to provide a "world class" education. You will soon receive an update regarding learning and the curriculum. We recognise the importance of timeliness as a fundamental lesson for life in addition to establishing an effective start to all lessons. Again, most pupils are great at arriving on time for their lesson, but a very small number remain persistently late. This impacts on the efficient start of learning, so from 21 November 2022 we will amend our behaviour policy to allocate a same day correction for pupils who are late for learning.

We strive to provide a clean and safe working environment for all pupils. We now have almost 100 rubbish bins on site and are encouraging all pupils to use them! Historically we have spent much money on employing extra site cleaners and vermin control to manage the disturbing amount of litter that is dropped daily. However, against the backdrop of rising costs this expenditure is now difficult to maintain. Additionally, we have spent money on removing chewing gum from around the academy. Money spent on these services is money that cannot be spent enhancing pupil's learning experiences here at the academy; educational resources which include teaching staff, support staff, books, IT equipment, sports equipment, Trips and Visits and further rewards. Our same day corrections system is effective and we trust that these sanctions will deter pupils from making 'lazy' decisions and support them to work with their peers, teaching and support staff and school leaders to ensure that our academy is at the forefront of standards and expectations in and around our local community.

Yours sincerely



Mrs Andry Joannou
Deputy Principal

[Uniform Expectations](#)

[PE Kit Expectations](#)

[Activities directory](#)