

Dear parent/carer

After the summer break, the academy will be moving away from our current Vertical Mentoring Group structure, to the Horizontal structure as outlined below.

### **What is Horizontal Tutoring?**

- This is where all tutor groups will be made up of pupils from the same year group.
- This is a move from the current structure where each tutor group consists of a number of pupils from each year group.

### **What are the benefits?**

- Keeping students in tutor groups with children of their own age ensures we maintain the integrity of the 'bubble', as advised by the Government. This will enhance the safety of staff and students.
- We feel that pupils will benefit from sharing experiences with children of their own age.
- There will be more 'year' focused tutorial time which is invaluable at key points during the year. Messages, activities and sessions will be directed to meet the needs of one year group and not five within one form. We feel that this is a more effective use of time and will benefit all pupils.
- There will be opportunities for clearer and more differentiated tutor programmes and assemblies. For example, CV writing for Year 10 pupils, Options Talks for Year 8s.
- Tutors will be able to focus their efforts towards one year group; this will aid communication across the school and supports the tutor's delivery of sessions.
- Tutors and Learning Managers will be able to ensure greater consistency in the monitoring of attendance and punctuality and rewards and sanctions.
- There will be increased opportunities to create a year group identity and competitions across tutor groups.

### **How will my child be supported?**

- Your child will have a tutor who will follow them on their journey through the school, rotating with the pupils. Tutors take pride in this role and should be the first contact for a child with a concern.
- There will be a Learning Manager for each Year Group. They will have an overview of the year groups and will strategically lead their team. Pupil welfare, behaviour and achievement will be the centre of everything that they do.
- The Learning Managers are non-teachers and will continue to provide the pastoral care required for our pupils.

### **How will assemblies now work?**

- Each year group will have a designated day for their assembly. This will take place on a weekly basis and they will have a specific focus on achievement, progress, cultural capital, personal responsibility and citizenship.
- There will also be opportunities to address current issues.

### **Key Summary:**

- Pupils will be in a tutor group with pupils of their own age group.
- Learning Managers will continue as non-teaching members of staff.

Should you have any further questions, or concerns, please feel free to email me [s.godfrey@hemsworth.outwood.com](mailto:s.godfrey@hemsworth.outwood.com) to discuss them in more detail.

Yours sincerely

Steve Godfrey  
Vice Principal

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A list of Directors' names is open to inspection at our registered office.