

Thursday 22nd March 2018



Dear parents and carers,

It is the end of another busy and successful term at City Heights E-ACT Academy. We have had a great launch to our new academic mentoring programme, 'Coachbright' which has involved University graduates from some of London's top Universities, mentoring a selection of our Y9 students on a weekly basis and tutoring them on topics after school, such as Maths, English and Science. In Drama, we have had a fantastic 'bi-lingual' performance at a local theatre by some of our Y9 and Y10 students, who delivered a thought provoking performance under the direction of our very own Ms Devine, who even undertook a language course in Spanish to make sure that she could support. As a result of this performance, three of our Year 10 students have been invited to a week-long prestigious drama workshop led by industry professionals! A very big well done to all involved. As I write, we also have our annual ski trip skiing down the slopes of La Flaine in the French Alps. Students in KS3 along with Mr Liddle, Ms Gallagher and Mr Harte have been mastering the slopes and making great progress on perfecting their technique.

Continuous school improvement

Every half term, we have a full day of school review by our academy trust and the local authority. I am pleased to say that in each visit this academic year, our visitors have seen improvements in our students' attitudes towards learning and in the quality of learning taking place in the classroom. Our foci for the remainder of the academic year will be to embed the improvements which have already taken place and to ensure that challenge and differentiation for students are developed even further to allow all students to make great progress. In line with this, we will be investing in a new platform to share homework online with parents called 'Show my Homework'. I will write to parents just after Easter break with more details on how to access their log in and how to check the homework which is being set for your son or daughter.

Incoming Y7 students

We are pleased to have had a high number of applicants for places in next year's Y7 and anticipate being full as well as having a waiting list for places. Parents who have been offered a place at City Heights, please do accept your place with the local authority but also return your reply slip to the academy, so that we can offer a place to a student on the waiting list, should you no longer wish to take up the place offered at the academy for your son or daughter.

As with every school year, we will be running 'Family Interview' days for the families of our new Y7 students on Friday the 20th and Friday the 27th of April 2018 from 1.30 to 4.30pm. This will mean that the academy will close to students in all year groups at 12.45pm. Students will have lessons as normal Period 1 – 4 and those entitled to a free school lunch will be provided with this at break time in the canteen. We thank you for your support with this and look forward to meeting our new families after Easter.

End of term arrangements:

As per our school calendar, our Easter break begins on Thursday the 29th of March. This will be a half day for all students, with lessons as usual in the morning, followed by achievement assemblies. Students will then be dismissed from 12.45pm onwards. For students who normally receive free school lunch, this will be provided to take away. All students are expected to wear full school uniform as usual on this day.

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Changes to staffing:

This term we will say farewell to Mr Davies (Subject Leader for History) and Ms Ruddock (Teacher of Design Technology). We wish both colleagues well with their future endeavours and thank them for their contribution to City Heights. We are pleased to welcome Mr Jones, joining us in History and Ms Tekeste joining us in Design Technology. In addition, we are very pleased to have a new Curriculum Director for Maths, Ms Nwaogbo starting with us on the 18th of June. Ms Nwaogbo is currently Head of Maths at a local school and will bring great experience and knowledge to the role.

Ms Shepherd, our current Head of Y7 will be stepping down from her role as Head of Year, but remaining with us as Teacher of Science after the Easter break. Ms Shepherd has been a Head of Y7 for a number of years now and has overseen the transition of many of our students from primary into secondary. We thank her for her hard work in this role. Ms Butler, our current Senior Pastoral Manager, will take over the role of Head of Y7 from after the Easter break. If you need to contact Ms Butler, she can be reached via email on butler.s@chea.org.uk or via making an appointment through reception.

Year 8 Parents Evening:

Our Year 8 parents evening will take place as per the school calendar on Thursday the 19th of April between 5.30 and 7.30 pm. There will be crèche facilities provided for parents who require it. All Year 8 parents are highly encouraged to attend to ensure that they are clear on how to support their son or daughter with their progress. There will also be an opportunity for parents to find out more about our new system for setting and tracking homework, 'Show my homework'.

Staff training day – Monday 23rd of April

As per our school calendar, the academy will be closed to all students on Monday the 23rd of April for a scheduled staff training day. All Year 11 students will be set additional work and provided with exam practice to complete.

Attendance expectations:

A reminder to parents that school attendance is very important and that all students should be in every day and striving for 100% attendance. Any attendance that falls below 96% is highlighted as a serious cause for concern and may trigger a penalty notice. If your son or daughter is unwell in the morning, every attempt should be made to encourage them to attend school. Our senior team will be arranging meetings with families where attendance is very low over the next few weeks to set targets to rapidly raise their attendance.

Uniform and equipment expectations:

Please note that we continue to insist on full compliance with our uniform policy. Students who arrive at the academy in incorrect uniform will not be allowed to attend lessons and will remain in isolation until they are dressed appropriately. In addition, any outdoor wear which is worn inside the school building will be confiscated. In addition, our rule on no mobile phone devices being seen or heard in the academy remains in place and will be confiscated if this rule is not adhered to. All students are expected to also come fully equipped to the academy and must have the following ready for inspection in line up and in tutor time. Failure to come equipped with the following items will lead to a 20 minute detention: -

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Clear plastic pencil case
Blue pen x 2
Black pen x 2
Pencil x 1
Eraser x 1
Pencil sharpener x 1
Ruler x 1
Highlighter x 1 (any colour)

I wish you and your families a restful Easter and we look forward to welcoming our students back after the break.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Elroy Cahill', written in a cursive style.

Elroy Cahill
Headteacher

