

Year 7 – First day
Tuesday 5th September 2023

Dear Parent/Carer,

Firstly, I would like to thank you for your support over the past few months as we start the transition process for your child as they start at Grace Academy Darlaston. The transition days last month were a great success, and we look forward to welcoming your child into year 7 in September. Below you will find some useful information regarding start dates and times for your child's first day in the Academy on **Tuesday 5th September 2023**.

Year 7 will start back at school a day before the rest of our year groups return. The first day for our year 7 students will be **Tuesday 5th September 2023**. On this day, as with the transition days, students will need to enter the **side gate to the MUGA** where Key Stage 3 line up each morning. There will be members of staff at the front of school to greet and guide students to where they need to go. Students need to be lining up ready to enter the academy **by 8.30am** so please ensure they **arrive from 8.20am** onwards to line up. Following our academy behaviour policy, students who arrive at school after 8.38am will be officially marked as late and receive a late detention.

Students will be expected to arrive wearing **their full Grace Academy uniform** (please see our uniform guidelines on our website). Please ensure you have thoroughly read the guidance on the types of shoes, trousers and skirts we accept, as students with incorrect uniform will either be sent home to correct this or may be put into refocus. I would like to highlight some key points from the uniform policy for clarity:

- Jewellery – students are allowed one small plain, gold or silver stud in each ear lobe. No other piercings or jewellery are allowed. Any jewellery will be confiscated in line with our policy. I must also stress that all earrings need to be able to be removed for PE lessons. Please ensure that any students getting their ears pierced over the summer have this done with enough time for healing to take place so they can be easily taken in and out from September.
- Make up and nails – Makeup, nail varnish and acrylics are not allowed
- Skirts - Plain black pleated/non-pleated of an appropriate length with black opaque tights, which should cover the legs entirely. Tube skirts (or, other stretchy/tight-fitted skirt) are not allowed. Tights should be at least 60 denier.
- Shoes – Plain black. No boots or trainers allowed. Shoes should not have any sort of gold, silver, coloured embellishments on them.

Grace Academy is part of Tove Learning Trust, a multi-academy trust whose Company Registration Number is 07525820 .
Registered Office Address: c/o Sponne School, Brackley Road, Towcester, Northants NN12 6DJ

- Trousers/Socks – Students' trousers should cover the legs and ankles entirely with black socks; no trainer socks – ankles should not be visible.

All students will be expected to come to the academy prepared with a school bag, basic stationery, and PE kit so they are equipped for the school day.

During their first day, year 7 students will officially meet their form tutor, receive their planner and timetable and learn more about the academy before starting their timetabled lessons. The planned timetable for the first day has been designed to help ease students into secondary school life, allowing them to navigate around the building and meet key staff before the older year groups return. Year 7 students will finish their first day in line with our normal school day at 3pm.

On Tuesday 5th September and Wednesday 6th September **only**, we will provide a **free hot lunch** for all year 7 students as we admit and prepare students biometric accounts, which support the cashless payment system we run in our school canteen. Students are welcome to bring their own packed lunch on these days if they wish. From **Thursday 8th September onwards**, students will need to ensure they have money to purchase their own lunch or bring a packed lunch. They will be shown how to load money to their account during their first day.

If your child currently receives Free School Meals, this should follow them through to their secondary school. We strongly advise that you apply for free school meals, even if you are not sure of your eligibility. This will allow your child to access a lunch time meal every day while attending school. To do this please use this link: <https://www.gov.uk/apply-free-school-meals>

I hope this letter provides you with the necessary information you require ahead of your child's first day. Please refer to our transition handbook for further information.

We look forward to welcoming your child into the Academy in September.

Kind regards,



Mrs J Wheeler
Associate Assistant Principal
Head of Key Stage 3