RESILIENCE · RESPECT · INTEGRITY · COMMUNITY
The Ongar Academy, Fyfield Road, Ongar, CM5 0AN
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Tel: 01277 500990
Email: communications@theongaracademy.org
Website: www.theongaracademy.org
Headteacher: Mr. J. Sands
Deputy Headteacher: Ms. R. Gilbert

JSA/SBO

4 September 2024

Happy New Academic Year!

Dear Parents & Carers,

It has been great to welcome students back to the academy for, what will be, a really exciting academic year ahead. This morning, in assemblies, I wished each student a 'Happy New Year' and asked them to consider what their new academic year resolutions should be. The key message to all, was this year was an opportunity to start afresh, to strive to improve and do better each day.

Focus on Rewards

We have decided to shift our focus this year on those students who do the right things, work hard and take every opportunity afforded to them. The new reward system will see students rewarded for the basics, such as being on time, have the correct equipment, handing in their homework, but also rewarded for going above and beyond, inside and outside the classroom. The house achievement points will lead to Bronze, Silver, Gold, Platinum and Diamond badges and associated prizes too. We hope that students will really engage with their achievement house point totals on Edulink each day, as they are up-dated live.

Changes to the Senior Team

We have re-allocated some responsibilities within the senior team and would like to make you aware of these changes.

Mr Ritchie - Assistant Headteacher for Curriculum, Timetabling & Homework

If you have any queries about a class, a student timetable issue or a homework issue, then you can contact him directly on: writchie@theongaracademy.org

Mr Williams – Assistant Headteacher for Assessment, Reporting and Edulink

If you have any queries about exam entries, assessment scores, student reports or have issues with Edulink, please contact him directly on: swilliams@theongaracademy.org

PALS – Pastoral & Learning Support

Each year group have now been allocated a PAL (Pastoral And Learning Support). The role is very similar to a non-teaching Pastoral Manager role. They are there to support student pastorally with concerns, social issues and any anxiety. However, they are also there to support learning in the classroom, especially where students need extra support. If you have a general query or concern, the PAL will be the first port of call:
Year 7 PAL – Mrs Dorman: cdorman@theongaracademy.org
Year 8 PAL – Mrs Harwood: lharwood@theongaracademy.org
Year 9 PAL – Mrs Chandler: nchandler@theongaracademy.org
Year 10 PAL – Miss Dorman: edorman@theongaracademy.org
Year 11 PAL – Mrs Jones: ljones1@theongaracademy.org

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There will be further information over the coming weeks. If you are not sure who to contact, please email communications@theongaracademy.org and they will direct your email to the correct person.

Finally
The phrase I used with students this morning was:

"The past does not define our future".

Every student has the opportunity to start afresh and to make the very best of their time at The Ongar Academy. We are here, as always, to support and reward them on their educational journey. I look forward to seeing how students progress over the coming weeks.

Kind regards,

Mr Sands
Headteacher