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Dear Parents / Carers

University of Kent Academies Trust (UKAT) Update

I cannot believe that we are approaching the end of yet another academic year. It has been an interesting year as we have worked alongside our partner school within UKAT – Chatham Grammar School for Girls. Both academies benefit from sharing one Trustee Body and one Strategic Leadership Team, steering the direction of both schools. A few staff work across both academies allowing students on both sites to benefit from their collective skills and knowledge. A few student groups from both schools have also worked together on specific University of Kent projects – for example Year 7 on the Da Vinci project at the University of Kent campus. Sixth form students studying A level courses have worked well together and also benefited from joint teaching. We will continue to expand this work in the years ahead.

Staffing

Staffing of schools and academies nationally remains extremely challenging. Recruitment of teachers is dire, with some Universities reporting that only 40% of their teacher training places have been taken up. Across the country the drop out of new teachers from the profession is also of concern. Much lobbying of the government by various education forums is in place and unless some radical solution is found the situation will only worsen. It is very akin to the issues within the health surface. UKAT have been doing everything possible to recruit and retain staff.

Parent/Carer Reference group

The University, and myself, would like to establish a Brompton Academy Parent/Carer Reference group – this will be different from the current Parent/Carer Associates group. However, we would like as many of the associates to come to this group as well. The aim of this group will be to inform on developing the future vision for the academy, which will be fed back to the UKAT Trustees, and also to raise issues of concern that the academy needs to address. If you are interested in coming to an initial meeting in term one please do email me (judyrider@ukatacademies.org.uk) and I will ensure you are invited.

Academy day from September 2018 /19

When Chatham Grammar School for Girls (CGSG) joined UKAT their day structure was changed to fit in with Brompton Academics' so that there could be synchronisation allowing the Trust to timetable various joint curriculum events (particularly around University of Kent activities) and deploy staffing to the benefit of both academies. The outcome of this was that tutor time and many extra-curricular activities were lost. After reflection and taking into

consideration comments from students and staff in both schools, and a review of Personal Tutoring at BA (which showed BA students unhappiness with the system), the academy day, across the Trust, has been changed with effect from the beginning of the September term. The new day will allow students to build a better relationship with a named form tutor who can really get to know them well, and support their pastoral and academic needs. It will also provide more opportunities for students to participate in the electives programme. Students should be on site no later than 8.35am. Breakfast clubs will continue as usual.

The timings will be as follows from September 2018.

Mon- Thurs		Friday	
8.35am	Students should be on site	8.35am	Students should be on site
08:45 - 09:45	Lesson 1	08:45 - 09:45	Lesson 1
09:45-10:45	Lesson 2	09:45 - 10:15	Lesson 2** (Tutor time)
10:45 - 11:00	Break	10:15 - 10:30	Break
11:00 - 12:00	Lesson 3	10:30 - 11:30	Lesson 3
12:00 - 12:30	Lesson 4** (Tutor time)	11:30 - 13:00	Lesson 4* Rolling lunch period (30 mins and 1 hour lesson)
12:30 - 14:00	Lesson 5* Rolling lunch period (30 mins and 1 hour lesson)	13:00 - 14:00	Lesson 5
14:00 - 15:00	Lesson 6	14.00	End of School
15.00	End of School		
15:00	Electives, Clubs and other extra-curricular activities (voluntary - however some students may be asked to stay for specific activities - parents/carers will be advised)		

Mon – Thursday lunch slots		Friday lunch slots	
* lunchtimes:		* lunchtimes:	
12:30 - 13:00	Lunch 1	11:30 - 12:00	Lunch 1
13:00 - 13:30	Lunch 2	12:00 - 12:30	Lunch 2
13:30 - 14:00	Lunch 3	12:30 - 13:00	Lunch 3

UKAT Sixth form

The new UKAT Sixth form will launch in September with both the CGSG and Brompton site offering a wide range of A level courses. The University of Kent Academies Trust have a long term visionary plan for our post 16 provision. Earlier in the year the University of Kent, in conjunction with Canterbury Christchurch, were given assent to develop the first Medical School in Kent. Although the main base is to be in Canterbury, the University wish to establish a hub in Medway located alongside and within the UKAT post 16 provision. This will develop routes into the medical profession, not just for students to become doctors but to enter other health service professions. The aim would be for the UKAT sixth form to offer direct routes into the Medical school. The provision would also provide for post graduate

applied science researchers to work within and teach on the A level programmes offered in the UKAT sixth form.

Conclusion

The work within BA will continue to improve standards and provide the best educational experience for our students. My thanks to all the students and you - their parents/carers, who continually support this great school. We had over 900 applications this year (any preference) seeking to secure a place at BA in Year 7. BA remains the most popular and oversubscribed school in Medway. The ethos of this school, built through the commitment and sponsorship of the University of Kent, continues to provide a great and unique place for students to be educated academically and socially - building the whole character.

My best wishes to you all for the summer break and I look forward to the new academic year ahead in September. No doubt the Principal, Mrs Best, will be writing to you in the break with key dates and arrangements for the start of term.

Kind regards

Judy Rider
Executive Principal