



August 2018

Dear Parents/Carers

I am writing to introduce myself as the Executive Principal at Helenswood Academy. I am very excited to be joining the community and to be working with parents, staff and students to provide the very best opportunities for your child's success. Chris Connor is the Head of Lower School, and Nigel Youngman is the Head of Upper School.

I am very pleased to tell you that Ark Helenswood Academy have exceeded 2017 results. The value that has been added to the Year 13 student outcomes is graded as excellent. Similarly, the GCSE results have seen a significant increase in the number of students achieving 4+ and 5+ in both English and maths. This is credit to our dedicated students and parents and also to the hard work and high expectations of our staff. I would like to also congratulate Tracy Dohel who has led this improvement with her unrelenting drive to raise standards.

However, we are not complacent, and are the first to say that we have much to do to ensure every student achieves the highest life currency. One area that we need to improve is maximising learning time. The content and demand of the exams is increasingly challenging – we cannot afford for any student to lose such valuable time. Therefore, we need all students to have excellent attendance with a minimum of 97%. We hope to be celebrating every student who achieves this goal but we will also be challenging and addressing students who are falling below this expectation. We need your full support to ensure that your daughter is at school every single day.

Students need to be fully focused in every lesson. As a result we are introducing some revised routines in and around the academy. These include continuing and refining the line-up system before students start the school day to ensure that they are ready, prepared and have the right mindset to learn. We also have very clear expectations about how students will enter and leave the classroom so that learning can begin swiftly and promptly. The student council have told the Leadership Team that they would like us to improve how students move through the corridors so that they are quieter and move more swiftly to their lessons and we aim to address this and put measures in place. As parents you want to know that your child's learning is never disrupted – so do we. Therefore, we shall be taking a firm line with any student who arrives late to class or who is found out of lesson and this will result in an immediate same day detention.



Principal: Tracy Dohel

Helenswood Academy is driven by some essential key values that underpin all that we do, how we behave and what we expect from each other:

Respect - VALUE EACH OTHER AND TREAT EACH OTHER WITH KINDNESS, e.g. simple good manners

Cooperation – DOING THE RIGHT THING WITHOUT BEING ASKED, e.g. always follow the expectations

Excellence – ALWAYS BE THE BEST YOU CAN POSSIBLY BE, e.g. never giving up when something is really challenging

Commitment – SETTING YOUR GOAL OR TARGET AND STICKING TO IT, e.g. giving up something in the short term for the long term gain.

These values apply to both students and staff and we shall measure our progress and development against these values as much as we do against our outcomes. I hope you will also take ownership of these values and help us endorse them with your daughter.

Thank you for your support and I hope we can continue to develop a strong working partnership as we work towards the same goal: that your daughter achieves the best possible outcomes and develops valuable attributes that will enable her to be highly employable and to have a happy and successful future.

A brief reminder of the dates and times we expect to welcome students back to the academy:

Year 7 students	8.45am on Wednesday 5 th September
Year 8 – 10 students	8.45am on Thursday 6 th September – Lower School site
Year 11 students	8.45am on Thursday 6 th September – Upper School site

Could I also remind new Year 7 students that they must bring in their PE kit for their first day on Wednesday 5th September as there are some sports activities planned.

Yours faithfully

Ms Yvonne Powell
Executive Principal