



Our Ref: KNH/BAM

7 September 2021

Dear Parent/Carer

A warm welcome back to you and your families at the start of another Academy academic year. This year our aim is to build upon the fantastic work of our young people last year, ensuring they continue to have access and opportunity to first class education. This theme of the Academy this year is **consistency** and **community** and we are looking forward to developing our Parent-Academy link with you all, alongside our local community in Tunbridge Wells.

An equally warm welcome to our new Parents/Carers, those of you with children who have started in Year 7 or in other Year groups. We are thrilled that you and your families have chosen SKA and look forward to working alongside you in the coming months/years.

As an Academy we also welcome new staff to our Academy, bringing with them a wealth of experience both nationally and internationally:

Mr D Vaughan – Assistant Principal, Attenborough House
Ms M Henry – Head of Computing
Miss E Leamon – Teacher of Science
Miss G Taylor – Teacher of French and Spanish
Mr M Bagwell – Teacher of Maths
Mr V Arun – Teacher of Maths
Mrs A Fennelly – Teacher of History
Miss L O’Connell- Teacher of Music and Drama
Mr A Bebb – Teacher of Physics
Mr A Cole – Learning Mentor
Miss J Thompson – Learning Mentor

We have also made several internal appointments for September:

Miss Kinsey – Head of Maths
Mr Hall – Deputy Head of Maths and Trips Co-ordinator
Ms Black – Head of English
Mr Skehan – Deputy Head of English
Mr Racher – Head of Upper School
Mrs Musariri – Head of Lower School
Mrs Hunter – Senior Deputy Head of Science
Miss Simpson – Deputy Head of Science and DofE award coordinator
Miss McCreadie – Head of Geography
Miss Shaw – Enrichment and House coordinator

Mrs Forde – MA&T Coordinator
Mrs Alback- Deputy Head of 6th Form
Mrs Petitt- DofE award Coordinator

Covid-19

As an Academy we are still very mindful of there being a fine balance between providing a more normal approach to education and still mitigating the risk of Covid-19 wherever possible. Rest assured the Academy is committed to both, though we are hopeful that we may be in a position to return to some activities such as trips, visits, whole Academy events. The Academy will however be keeping a close eye on events and Covid-19 numbers in our local area and will return to stricter procedures, should it be necessary. Please see [here](#) for a link to our Covid-19 documents for further detail.

Our testing centre has once again been up and running for the last week and we will continue to support all students with this. It is incredibly important, to mitigate the risk to all our community that all students conduct two lateral flow tests weekly. A reminder again of all details regarding how to submit a test result can be found [here](#).

Academy Houses

We have now officially launched our new Academy Houses



Building on our theme of Community, over the next year, we will be looking at the theme of belonging, creating various opportunities for students to represent their new House and to instil the values of our Houses across all the work we do in the Academy.

Global & Personal Studies (GPS)

Global, Philosophy and Ethics (GPE) has been slightly rebranded to GPS to include the new Relationships, Sex and Health Education curriculum which all schools are expected to teach from this academic year. Once again, the Academy is pleased to be able to build upon the excellent foundation it has in place across all aspects of the curriculum. You may have seen through our SKA Weekly newsletter that we are informing parents of upcoming topics in relation to GPS. This is to encourage and support you to continue these conversations at home. We will be launching our RSHE section of our website soon in addition to parent workshops, so that we can share the work of the Academy in this area, alongside providing useful links and support to parents/carers.

Working together closely with parents and carers, we aim to support all our students as they navigate their way through adolescent topics.

Parent/Carer opportunities

This year, we aim to support and provide an array of opportunities for parents and carers to come into the Academy (Covid-19 guidance allowing), with the aim of strengthening our Parent-Academy relationship. Over the course of this year there will be:

- Parent Association meetings; please email mbarnes@skinnerskent.org.uk if you would like to become involved in the Academy's PA
- Parent Review Meetings, to discuss the academic progress of your child(ren). We are interested in hearing parents' views on whether you would like to continue to conduct these remotely. Please complete a very short survey [here](#).
- Welcome Events for Year 7 and Year 8 Parents
- Parental workshops
- SKA Community bus; our Heads of Year/Senior staff will be out in Tunbridge Wells with our Academy bus to meet with parents more informally
- SKA Reading Army – if you would be interested in providing time to support literacy in the Academy please contact drowe@skinnerskent.org.uk
- Our new pre-loved uniform shop will launch this year, run by members of our Parent Association
- Business & careers mentoring opportunities, if you would be interested in providing support in these areas to our young people, please contact mentoring@skinnerskent.org.uk
- Opportunity to support the Academy financially through our Academy fund. Please click [here](#) for details
- Weekly newsletters, updating parents and carers on all aspects of the Academy life. This is sent out on a Friday via email

Finally, I look forward to working with you and your son or daughter as we embark on what I am sure will be another successful academic year at the Academy. I would like to thank you in advance for your support of your son or daughter and wish them every success and opportunity this year.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'H Knowles', with a small dot at the end.

Miss H Knowles
Principal