



20th September 2023

Mr I Critchley

Principal BSc (Hons), PGCE, MA, NPQH

Dear Parents and Carers

Curriculum Support for 2023-2024

I hope that this letter finds you well and in good health and that your child has made a positive start to the new academic year here at Halewood Academy. As parents and carers, you may like to know how we are going to support your child's ongoing learning and progress. I would like to take the opportunity to share information regarding the subject specific support that is in place to fill any gaps in learning that might exist and accelerate learning.

At Halewood Academy, we have developed a number of strategies and programmes to augment the learning environment which will allow students to excel in their academic studies. Please note that not all of these strategies will apply to all students as we aim to ensure that our support strategy is bespoke to the students and their individual needs.

The strategies that we currently have in place to support students and enable them to aspire to achieve our vision of 'we seek the best' include:

Black Folders:

All students have been issued with a black A4 folder and the expectation is that they have it with them **every day** to use in lessons. The folder houses their timetable to support attendance to lessons on time and over the course of the year, staff will share Knowledge Organisers with the students that outlines what they need to know from the core knowledge taught to date. This information will be used in lesson and will support students to complete homework and revision in preparation for their P2S assessments.

Curriculum Mapping:

Each department has mapped out their curriculum to ensure that core knowledge is delivered and any gaps in learning are addressed and that we focus on both breadth and depth of understanding. We have made clear cross-curricular links to ensure students can see how their subjects work in conjunction. I would encourage you to look at the curriculum section on the school website to see what students will be learning in each subject.

Intervention:

We have worked incredibly hard to ensure we have some capacity in English, maths and science to be used for specific and bespoke interventions to help targeted students fill in their knowledge gaps or become more solid in their learning. This is a government initiative and we have decided to use our own staff as opposed to external tutor companies that can be excellent but don't have the same relationships with our students.

Reading and Literacy at Halewood:

We remain dedicated to creating a language rich environment for students with all staff making literacy their priority and where its value as a life skill for students is promoted regularly. We remain committed to emphasising the need to develop students' abilities to articulate their learning and to communicate clearly both verbally and in writing. Staff model these skills during lessons and form time and students are able to practise these across the curriculum. We believe that this strategy will ensure that our students become competent communicators as well as resilient and curious readers who are ready for life after Halewood Academy. Reading is a fundamental life skill which helps to ensure students maximise their potential to succeed and unlocks a vast array of opportunities. Please visit our website for further information on reading at Halewood Academy.

Faster Reading: All KS3 students benefit from the Faster Reading initiative during English lessons meaning that they have the opportunity to read and study two full novels per academic year in Years 7-9. Novels are age appropriate and are chosen with global issues and the Personal Development curriculum in mind and explore a wide range of genres, topics and narrators.

Form-time reading: Students in Years 7 and Year 8 read a year group novel alongside their form tutor once a week in form time. Tutors model reading aloud and lead discussion focusing on key themes/ideas raised in their reading. This exposes students to a wide range of literature and vocabulary on a weekly basis and ensures they are reading regularly.

Specific support for Year 11:

To enhance Year 11s classroom learning, we have created a comprehensive 'Super Curriculum' where students have access to additional hours of learning each week; this includes before school, lunch time and after school. Further opportunities will be made available on Saturday mornings and during the school holidays. Further to this, we have subject specialists leading intervention masterclasses during Form Time and some students have more bespoke programmes to ensure that their individual needs are met, ensuring that all students are well prepared for their December mock exams and their 2024 GCSE exams.

We will be hosting an Achieve Together Evening for all year 11 students and parents on **Thursday 5th October** to further support students with the requirements of each subject and suggested revision strategies and sharing of resources.

Homework and Online Learning Platforms:

Across the curriculum, students have access to platforms like Seneca Learning, Sparx Maths, I Achieve and Microsoft Teams. These fantastic resources are used for homework and to support classroom learning; however, these platforms can be a really powerful resource when used for independent revision. On them, you will find a wide range of videos, quizzes and tasks to support your child's progress. I would encourage you to ensure that your child(ren) are utilising these resources well to support their learning.

In addition to setting homework via these online platforms, teachers may provide takeaway homework sheets for students to complete at home. Sufficient time will be given for students to complete their homework.

The SIMS Parent app enables you to keep up to date with your child's homework. The app gives you access to the following features:

- Details of the homework that has been set for your child
- The start and due in date for all homework
- The submission status for all of your child's homework

Regular Assessment:

During this academic year, we will have three data points. This will allow us to track and monitor the students' progress, ensuring that we can identify and address any concerns as soon as possible. This will allow us the opportunity to support students who may have additional needs or fill in learning gaps.

Assessment dates for this year are:

Year 7

P2S1 Week Beginning Monday 23rd October – Thursday 26th October

P2S2 Week Beginning Monday 5th February – Friday 1st March (3-week window)

P2S3 Week Beginning Monday 13th May – Friday 24th May

Year 8

P2S1 Week Beginning Monday 6th November – Friday 10th November
P2S2 Week Beginning Monday 5th February – Friday 1st March (3-week window)
P2S3 Week Beginning Monday 13th May – Friday 24th May

Year 9

P2S1 Week Beginning Monday 13th November – Friday 17th November
P2S2 Week Beginning Monday 5th February – Friday 1st March (3-week window)
P2S3 Week Beginning Monday 13th May – Friday 24th May

Year 10

P2S1 Week Beginning Monday 2nd October – Friday 22nd October (3-week window)
P2S2 Week Beginning Monday 29th January – Friday 9th February
P2S3 Y10 Mocks Monday 10th June – Friday 21st June

Year 11

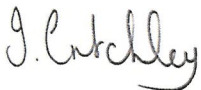
P2S1 Week Beginning Monday 2nd October – Friday 22nd October (3-week window)
P2S2 Year 11 Mocks Monday 4th December – Wednesday 20th December (Practical exams differ)
P2S3 Year 11 Mocks Monday 11th March – Friday 22nd March

Supporting our community and our students is at the heart of what we do, so please be assured that staff at Halewood Academy are working exceptionally hard to ensure an exceptional learning journey and ample support for all. We are committed to ensuring that our students are not left behind and that they are able to make good progress, in line – and hopefully exceeding - their abilities. Excellent student attendance and punctuality to school and lessons will further support their progress and our commitment to ensure they achieve highly.

Your support in ensuring that your child makes the most of the support, learning opportunities and enrichment activities is much appreciated.

I look forward to working with you and our community again during this academic year.

Yours sincerely



Mr. I. Critchley
Principal

