



# Seahaven Academy

The best in everyone™

Part of United Learning

SLP

September 2019

Dear Parent/Carer

As you are aware, Seahaven has been on quite a journey over the last 5 years since becoming an academy and part of the United Learning group of schools. We have seen our numbers rise steadily, partly as a result of larger numbers of students coming through the primary schools in our area, but also as a result of the school becoming increasingly popular, to the extent that we were significantly oversubscribed for year 7 in 2019 and are outgrowing our current buildings. Lots of extra students brings with it a need for far more staff in the school, so we are now getting used to having larger numbers of people on site. At the same time, we have lost a significant amount of space whilst the building programme gets underway and we will remain rather squashed until next May. As there is a considerable amount of change to manage, I intend to write to parents and carers each month with updates about all aspects of school life so that you have all the information you need during the year. We have now completed the first two full weeks of the new school year, so I thought I would write to let you know how the term has started and give you some updates on our priorities for 2019-20:

## Year 7

The new year 7 students have settled in incredibly quickly. The transition week in July makes a huge difference and our new students arrived on the first Friday this term feeling confident around the school and ready to start learning with us after the long break. There are always some teething problems, but they are being addressed as they arise with individual students. Lessons have been very calm and focused and breaks and lunchtimes, always a bit louder and with more rushing about, especially in year 7, have been very sociable. The trips last week to Wakehurst Place for year 7 were also a huge success and the students made a fantastic impression on staff there. Thank you to all year 7 parents and carers for helping to make this such a positive start to the year.

## Buildings

The extension to the front of the school is now underway following the completion of some minor alterations to the existing buildings during the holidays. The buildings should be ready for us to move into in May and will comprise a number of general purpose classrooms, new ICT suites, an extension to the main hall and a new reception and office area. There will also be changes to the landscaping and car park in front of the school. The extensions will allow us to grow to an overall school population of 900 in the next few years. We will still be a smaller than average school but it will be great to have more facilities for the greater number of students we are now welcoming.



**Principal Sarah Pringle**

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As the school grows, we are having to make some changes to the access to the school, including no longer allowing parents to drop off or pick up on site as there simply isn't the room to do this anymore and it is causing increasing safety risks for students. Thank you to everyone for arranging to meet their children further away from the school, this has made a huge difference.

### **Communication**

Communication is a source of constant frustration in any school as we all try to manage our busy schedules both in school and out of school but also sometimes need to make an enquiry at a time to suit us. We review our communication strategies regularly and are very conscious that with limited reception facilities we are not going to be a very welcoming- looking school for a short period. Please refer to the attached grid for the best communication route when you would like to find answers to questions or make an appointment to speak to someone.

### **Attendance**

Absence continues to be a significant issue for some of our students and is often an important factor contributing to underachievement. We know that every year a small number of students may have serious health issues and we work closely with families to support them. However, the majority of students with poor attendance do not have serious medical issues. Attendance needs to be 96% minimum each year (equal to 6 days absence) to avoid creating significant gaps in students' learning. Please speak to Roxie Lloyd, our Attendance Coordinator if you have any concerns.

### **Independent Learning**

Last year's exam results for year 11 highlighted the very clear link between good attendance (see above), good homework/ independent learning habits and good teaching. Those students who took advantage of all of these generally did very well and those who did not put in the same efforts were more often disappointed. We are aware that good independent learning habits do not come easily to all young people so we will be working with all year groups to ensure that completion of homework and revision techniques are something that all students can do. Please encourage your child to attend the before- and after- school supported study sessions in the LRC (where they can do their homework under the supervision of teachers and teaching assistants each day from 7.15- 8.00am and from 2.15- 4.15pm) if you would like them to complete independent learning at school. This facility is open every school day.

Thank you again to all parents and carers for helping us to make this a very positive start to the new school year. Please take a look at the school website for calendared events for the next few months, and I will look forward to welcoming you to the school at various points in the year.

Yours sincerely



Sarah Pringle  
Headteacher

<b>First contact</b>	<b>For...</b>	<b>Explanation</b>
<b>Seahaven Academy Website</b>	General school level information	We are constantly updating information on the website so that you can check the calendar, recent letters, termly newsletters and general school information. Please try the website for general enquiries and let us know if you feel there is any useful information missing.
<b>Go4Schools</b>	Student level information	This will show you your child's timetable, assessments, and attendance. Please ask the office if you do not have logins.
<b>ShowMyHomework</b>	Homework information	This will show you your child's homework. Please ask the office if you do not have logins.
<b>Seahaven Academy Office</b>	Seahaven Academy Office 01273 517601	If you have not been able to find information you need on any of the above sites, please phone the office for further support.
<b>Pastoral Team</b>	Year 7 - Ms Bateman Year 8 - Mr Sibley Year 9 - Ms Weeks Year 10 - Ms Bosley Year 11 - Ms Thomas	If you have a student- related issue, please contact the Pastoral Leader for the relevant year group via the Seahaven Academy office. Since Pastoral Leaders are non- teaching members of staff they will be able to respond to your query more swiftly. They will then liaise with Form Tutors and other staff as needed.
<b>Form Tutors</b>	Students to raise issues	Students are asked to speak to their Form Tutor first if they have an issue, as they see them at the start of each day. However, parents and carers are asked to contact the Pastoral Lead with student-related issues as Form Tutors have a full teaching timetable and are unlikely to be able to contact parents immediately.
<b>Subject teachers</b>	Subject specific enquiries	If you are requesting contact from a specific teacher or other member of staff, please do not email them directly in the first instance but contact the school office. We will aim to return the call or email within 48 hours to arrange a suitable time to speak or meet. A lack of response from a specific member of staff can be due to a number of reasons including having the wrong email address or their not having been able to catch up on emails immediately so a call to the office will be a more effective first contact.

<b>Meetings</b>	Issues that cannot be dealt with via a phone call or email	<p>Parents and carers will be invited to attend meetings or may request a meeting when other types of communication are not appropriate. As we have extremely limited reception space, please always contact the school before coming in, unless by prior arrangement. This will avoid the need to stand outside in the rain whilst we are in temporary accommodation! We cannot accommodate unscheduled meetings as staff have extremely busy schedules, so to avoid disappointment please phone to make an appointment in advance. Meeting space on site is also severely restricted this year, so please be aware that most meetings will take place after school hours, and only when another form of communication e.g. a phone call, is not appropriate.</p>
<b>Designated Safeguarding Leads: Ms Lewis (Assistant Headteacher) or Ms Thomas (Pastoral Support Manager Year 11 Pastoral Leader)</b>	Safeguarding	<p>Concerns about child protection or safeguarding/ children's welfare are the responsibility of us all. Issues can be passed on to the school safeguarding leads or raised by any member of the public by phoning the Single Point of Advice (SPOA) for East Sussex: 01323 464222, Mon-Thurs 8.30am-5pm and Fri 8.30am-4.30pm or by email: <a href="mailto:0-19.SPOA@eastsussex.gov.uk">0-19.SPOA@eastsussex.gov.uk</a></p>