



Harrow Way Community School

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Headteacher: Mr C Currie

31st March 2010

Dear Parent,

I am writing to thank you for your continued support for our work and also to bring to your attention two particular school-related items.

Firstly, a note about the forthcoming examinations. Those for Year 10 are scheduled to take place mainly during the week of Monday 26th April with a few exams taking place in the previous week. All Year 10 students have received their timetable by e-mail and this can also be accessed on our website or the VLE. Year 11 students will of course be using their Easter holiday to revise hard for their exams and the timetable for these too may be accessed on-line.

Secondly, I would like to draw your attention to a change in policy regarding the use of earphones in school. As you are aware, Harrow Way Community School is designated a Specialist School in Mathematics and Computing. One of our major commitments under this designation is continually to develop the use of ICT equipment to support learning across the entire curriculum. You may have read in our recent Ofsted inspection report that inspectors highlighted the successful impact that specialism is already having on whole school improvement. The use of computers during lessons has therefore become central to our curriculum and the learning of our students, with most of them using computers on a daily basis.

In developing resources to support this work we are increasingly creating and using bespoke video tutorials, which are hosted on our own Virtual Learning Environment (VLE), to facilitate opportunities for student centred learning. We have found this to be an extremely powerful tool both in the classroom and when accessed at other times of the school day and even from home. In order to gain the maximum benefit from these resources the students require headphones.

The school has tried providing headphones for use in lessons but we have found this to be inefficient in terms of availability across all our networked PCs and in terms of the durability of the headphones themselves. We feel that the best cost-effective and hygienic solution to this problem is for each student to have their own set of inexpensive “in ear” style headphones for use in school as part of the school equipment requirement. Many students already possess compatible earphones which they will have acquired as part of their MP3 or mobile phone



Maths &
Computing



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Specialist Schools
and Academies Trust
EXCELLENCE AND DIVERSITY

We believe in equality of opportunity and want you to be able to participate fully whenever you visit the school. Please let us know beforehand of any special arrangements that may need to be in place for this to be the case.

kits. Alternatively, suitable earphones are available in many local shops, where they should cost less than £2. For students or parents who prefer to purchase headphones through the school, earphones will be available for purchase at cost price.

Please be aware therefore that from the start of the summer term, Monday 19th April 2010 students will normally be required to supply their own earphones for use in school during ICT lessons along with other basic school equipment. The list of basic school equipment to be provided by students will therefore be amended and posted on the VLE and website.

We trust you will readily understand the benefits of your child using only their own earphones and hope you will feel able to support their learning by purchasing suitable earphones if they do not already possess them.

Meanwhile, if you have questions regarding compatibility or any other matter related to the provision of earphones please do not hesitate to contact Mr Woods, Head of ICT at the school in the first instance.

Finally, I would like to take this opportunity to wish you and your family an enjoyable Easter break. The summer term begins on Monday 19th April and ends on Friday 23rd July 2010. School closes for the half-term break at the end of Friday 28th May and we return to school for the second half of the summer term on Monday 7th June.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'C E Currie', written in a cursive style.

C E CURRIE
Headteacher