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THE BRUNTS ACADEMY

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Date: 10 November 2023

The Brunts Academy IT Migration

Week beginning 20th November 2023

Dear Parents and Carers

I hope you and your families are well and have enjoyed the half term holiday. I am writing to let you know that from the end of the school day on Friday 17th until Monday 27th November 2023 the academy will be undergoing an IT infrastructure refresh and upgrade. During this migration period, our current IT system will be switched off and the new IT system will be put in place. It is expected that the work will be completed over this period and will bring huge benefits to our students and staff.

During this period of time, there will be some adjustments to the way we operate, including the lunch-time provision in school. We therefore urge you to read this letter and accompanying **information leaflet** carefully, and also speak with your child about the changes to facilitate a settled and successful academy week.

Changes to the Academy during the week of the IT migration 20th-24th November
Unfortunately, during the week of the migration our academy IT systems and WiFi will have to be temporarily disabled. This will mean that there will be no access to IT in the academy during this week for all students and the majority of staff. This will include hardware such as desktop computers, laptops, ipads, photocopiers, printers and software such as email and other Microsoft applications we commonly use in school.

Our staff have already prepared for this and have made the necessary adaptations to ensure the Academy runs smoothly during that week. Teachers have already planned and adapted lessons well in advance to facilitate the curriculum and continue to offer the best learning experience for our students. There will be no changes to the school day or students' timetable and we expect students to attend the Academy as normal.

Benefits of the new IT system
We are deeply committed to improving the resources and facilities at the academy to support our students to learn effectively and make good progress. Over the course of the initial phase of the

migration, you may notice very little apparent difference from the old IT system. However, over the subsequent weeks and months your children, our students, will begin to see the benefits of the new IT system, which forms the springboard for the Greenwood Academies Trust's long-term digital strategy.

The new system enables:

- a significant reduction in the risk of internet outage whilst increasing the security of our data, as our server will be repeatedly backed up to the Cloud
- access to learning materials and resources anytime, anywhere and from any device
- more efficient collaboration and communication on all fronts: internally within the Academy, across the other schools in the Trust and with you at home
- more inclusive provision for all our students
- automatic software upgrades so we remain at the forefront of technology
- the potential for our students to upskill themselves on the industry-standard platform of Microsoft 365
- full technical support in addition to training that will enable staff to embed the new technology into their pedagogy

All school devices will be imaged with the Windows 11 operating system, have access to a suite of Microsoft 365 applications and each user will have the added benefit of access to a single sign-on platform, called Skolon. This means that tools, resources, and applications that students access in school are also readily available for them to use at home. This will be particularly important for our GCSE students as they approach their examinations and will also generally facilitate greater and more efficient collaboration between schoolwork and home working. We are looking forward to the positive impact that our digital transformation journey will have on the outcomes of our students.

In the coming week we will be speaking with students about this IT migration both in our tutor time and also in the assembly program, when there will be an opportunity for students to ask any questions should they wish to.

I thank you in advance for your patience and understanding and please do not hesitate to contact us with any queries or questions you may have. I am confident the new IT system will benefit our entire community and bring the academy a closer step to being at the cutting edge of the current digital age.

Yours sincerely

Rachel Sutcliffe
Principal