

3 July 2019

Dear parent/carer

The end of another busy but productive year approaches. We will be sending out our final newsletter of the year during the last week of term. This will update you on many of the exciting activities, events and trips that our pupils have been getting involved with.

In the meantime, I wanted to make you aware of a few key dates, provide you with some updates on our performance and make some requests about uniform and parking.

Key Dates

Date	Event	Times and Notes
18 July	Multi-cultural Street Party	4:30-6:30pm
23 July	End of term trips	
24 July	Last day of term	Non-uniform day
School closes at 1.05pm on 24 July		
15 August	A level results day	9:00am
22 August	GCSE results day / Sixth Form enrolment	10:00am
4 September	Return to school	

Progress

As always, we are very proud of how hard most of our pupils have worked all year. In particular, our Year 11 and Year 13 pupils felt the pressure this term, but their attitude and preparation for their examinations was a real credit to them. As a consequence, we are predicting another excellent set of GCSE and A Level results – possibly even better than last year's record results!

Attendance

I would like to thank you for your continued support with your daughters' attendance. We set ourselves a target of 97% for the year and look set to just miss this (unless all pupils attend 100% for the last few weeks)!

However, the current attendance figure of 96.6% is excellent. It is an improvement on last year and well above the national average.

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Another notable aspect of improved attendance at the Academy is the proportion of pupils classified as Persistent Absentees (because their attendance has fallen below 90%). Currently, only 3.9% of our pupils have this label, which places the Academy in the top 1.4% of secondary schools nationally.

The advantage excellent attendance gives your daughters in terms of their academic progress and future prospects should never be underestimated. On their behalf, thank you for making them attend!

Behaviour

As you are aware, we use ClassCharts to record and monitor positive and negative behaviour. Indeed, many of you have now downloaded and registered for the free app so you can track your daughter's behaviour from home.

We have very high expectations of how pupils should conduct themselves in the Academy, and the vast majority of pupils meet these expectations every single day. In fact, **30 pupils** in the Academy have achieved an incredible **100% attendance record** as well as receiving **no negative BUILD points for the whole year!** I am sure you will join me in congratulating them! We are working on how we will recognise them for this brilliant feat.

On the rare occasions when pupils do not meet our high expectations, we use sanctions to reinforce them. These may be short 10 minute detentions, after-school detentions and, in more serious situations, pupils may be removed from their usual lessons or even excluded from school for a fixed period of time. Our goal is always to help the pupil reflect on their behaviour, think about how they could have done better and then to give them a chance to do so in the future.

A good indicator for how successful our pupils have been in making progress with their behaviour is the number of fixed term exclusions we have had to award during the year. I am delighted to report that we have significantly reduced the number of fixed term exclusions this year compared to last (by 22.5%) and our exclusion rate is well below the national average. We have also not permanently excluded a pupil for the last 4 years.

Uniform

We believe that a key part of the success our students have is down to being educated in a safe, calm and inclusive environment. This is established by us setting clear boundaries and holding high expectations. Insisting on high standards of uniform is an essential part of this.

As always, we look to you for support with our uniform rules. Can I urge you to be careful when purchasing school uniform for the next academic year – not all items that are sold as 'school uniform' by the shops meet our requirements. If you are unsure, please check our website first.

We usually experience issues in September with hair and jewellery standards, so please forgive me for reiterating these rules below:

Hair

- Non-natural colour hair dyes or partly dyed hair are not allowed.
- Shoulder length hair must be tied back. Hair bands and bandanas may be used for this but they must be plain black, purple or grey.
- Patterns and designs shaved into hair or eyebrows are not permitted. /Cont'd...

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• We provide a safe, kind, nurturing and inclusive environment. • We enjoy the journey together.



Jewellery

- We will only allow a small, metal stud in the bottom of the lobe of each ear.
- We will not accept earrings or other facial piercings including: nose, eyebrow, lip or other parts of the ear.

If you would like your daughter to have piercings of this nature, please arrange for them to be done at the start of the summer holiday. It is essential that there is sufficient time for the piercing to heal in order for the piercing to be removed during the school day – we do not permit retainers or plasters.

Parking

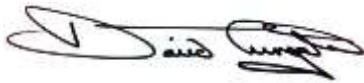
Parking remains a challenge at the end of the school day. If your daughter is able to make her own way home, it is beneficial to her developing independence, reduces pollution and decongests the roads.

However, if you do need to collect your daughter, please could you be considerate of other road users, our local residents and pedestrians? In particular, I would urge you not to park in front of the school gates, on the corner of Robins Wood Road and Prestwood Drive or in front of local residents' driveways (whether you believe they are using them or not).

Start of Autumn Term

The Autumn Term starts on **Wednesday 4 September 2019**. We look forward to seeing all of our pupils return safe, on time and appropriately dressed on that day! Have a lovely summer holiday.

Yours faithfully



Mr D Tungate
Principal

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