

28th April 2010

Dear Parents/Carers

I hope you have enjoyed a relaxing Easter break.

On Monday we opened the doors of the new Academy building to our students. The environment rapidly came alive as we organised the students ready to participate in a range of activities throughout the day. All students attended a special 'welcome assembly' and we were delighted to have our sponsors Eric and Grace Payne present for this occasion. The new facilities will now provide an opportunity not only to build on the progress made but to accelerate and extend the opportunities offered to our students.

I would like to thank all parents (well over 300) who were able to attend the tours of the new building. Feedback has been excellent with many parents themselves 'wanting to return to school!' Further opportunities to visit will be available (information to follow).

Students have been adjusting well to the new card system for payment of meals and we will continue to offer the option to use cash until the end of this week. There have been some problems with the use of damaged 'notes' e.g. with ink marks, sellotape or creases. Where possible the use of coins to load the machines is simpler alternatively please ensure that any notes you send in are undamaged. There will be a facility to pay on line later in the term.

The number of students who are absent due to holidays has reduced significantly and I thank you for your support with this important matter. I would like to remind you not to book holidays during term time as any such periods of absence will continue to be coded as 'unauthorised' in the official attendance register.

Please find attached a copy of the HMI Monitoring report based on the visit which took place on the 9th and 10th March 2010. This can also be accessed from the Q3 website.

By working together we can ensure that all students achieve and become the best that they can be. We need to have your full support in maintaining the high standards of behaviour which have been highlighted in the HMI report. There will continue to be zero tolerance of inappropriate business dress and poor behaviour, including any incidents which involve vandalism or damage to our new environment.

A copy of key dates is attached for your information which includes a reminder that the **Academy will be closed on Monday 3rd May (Bank Holiday) and Tuesday 4th May (Staff INSET).**

I look forward to seeing you during the weeks ahead.

Yours sincerely

Caroline Badyal
Chief Executive/Principal

KEY DATES

Term dates for 2010

Autumn Term

6th September 2010 – 10th December 2010 (6th September 2010 INSET DAY)
(Half Term: 25th October – 29th October 2010)

Christmas Holidays: 13th December 2010 – 3rd January 2011

Spring Term

4th January 2011 – 8th April 2011
(Half Term: 21st February – 25th February 2011)

Easter Holidays: 11th April 2011 – 25th April 2011

Summer Term

26th April 2011 – 29th July 2011

May Day Bank Holiday: 2nd May 2011

(Half Term: 30th May 2011 – 3rd June 2011)

A reminder about key dates for this term:

- Bank Holiday: 3rd May 2010
- INSET Day (Academy closed for students): 4th May 2010
- Whitsun Half Term: 31st May 2010 – 4th June 2010
- Leavers Service: 25th June 2010
- Bright Stars Evening: 6th July 2010
- INSET Day (Academy closed for students): 7th July 2010
- New Intake Evening 2: 13th July 2010
- Parent Consultation Day Key Stage 3: 1st July 2010
- Parent Consultation Day Key Stage 4: 21st July 2010
- Year 5 Introduction Night: 22nd July 2010
- Transition Week: 26th July – 30th July 2010
- Last day of term: 30th July 2010

PLEASE DO NOT DRIVE DOWN THE NEW ACADEMY ENTRANCE WHEN DROPPING OFF YOUR CHILDREN – THIS PRESENTS A HAZARD TO THE STUDENTS WHO ARE WALKING ALONG THE TEMPORARY PATH.

Thank you for your support with this matter.