

21<sup>st</sup> October 2016



Dear Parents/Carers

As we come to the end of a busy half-term I thought it important to reflect on the term so far and share with you some news and important messages.

I am delighted that Year 7 has settled well into the Academy and I am equally excited by our Year 13 students who are currently applying to university. Some of our Year 13 students have already received unconditional offers and two are taking Cambridge entrance examinations this term – we wish them all well. New Year 12 students have begun their 'A' Level courses and we expect a lot from them as this year group achieved the highest number of GCSE A\* and A grades recorded at Q3 in this summer's results.

This half term has been a busy one for educational visits and events. Our students have been on Duke of Edinburgh expeditions, played a wide range of sporting fixtures and enjoyed field visits to Warwick Castle and Lichfield. Our Open Evening was a great success and I wish to thank all students for making the Academy so warm and welcoming to prospective parents and students. Last week our PACT team hosted an entertaining quiz night and just this week we held the annual Grace Payne Public Speaking Contest, both wonderful events.

I am pleased to report that attendance at the Academy has recently been at 97% which is well above local and national averages. However, I have received a number of holiday requests which, like all secondary schools, we cannot authorise unless in truly exceptional circumstances. Naturally good attendance does matter but it's easy to let a few days absence build up. Our Attendance Officer, Mrs Ruby has uploaded a letter on the website to show the effect of lost days over the course of the year.

I am sure you will support me in stating that we demand the highest standards of conduct from our students. Young people will at times make poor decisions and we will sanction and support them to change their behaviour. Sadly this half-term some students have left the Academy as their conduct did not change which I hope will be a reminder to those few students that sometimes get drawn into silly behaviour that they risk exclusion if they do not meet our expectations.

Now that the mornings are getting darker and colder due to the changes in season we have taken the opportunity to open the gates to the main building at 7.45am instead of 8.00am. This is to allow the small group of students that arrive early to the Academy access to the main restaurant area only. They will have the opportunity to also take advantage of the free toast and orange juice provided to every student from 8.15am in a safe and warm environment.

Next half-term we will begin Year 11 support sessions for those who need some extra help and we will contact you directly if this concerns your child.

**This Term's Key dates for your diary:**

- Half Term Holidays – 24<sup>th</sup> October – 28<sup>th</sup> October
- Mock Examinations (Years 10, 11, 12 & 13) – 31<sup>st</sup> October – 4<sup>th</sup> November
- Parents' Consultation Day (Years 7, 9 & 12) – 3<sup>rd</sup> November (2.30pm – 7.00pm)
- Sixth Form Open Evening – 10<sup>th</sup> November (6.30pm – 8.30pm)
- Remembrance Service – 11<sup>th</sup> November (10.30am – 11.15am)
- Academy Production of Enchanted 3 – 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> December (times to be confirmed)
- Last day of term – 9<sup>th</sup> December
- Christmas Holidays – 12<sup>th</sup> December 2016 – 2<sup>nd</sup> January 2017
- INSET Day – 27<sup>th</sup> January 2017

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CHIEF EXECUTIVE (PRINCIPAL) Dr Caroline J S Badyal, EdD, MA BE.d, DipEd, NPQH Q3 - QUAERERE | 'SEEK THAT WHICH IS GOOD, THAT WHICH IS RIGHT, THAT WHICH IS TRUE'



Please be aware that on occasion, dates may need to alter slightly, you will be notified in good time should this happen.

Finally may I wish you all a safe and restful half-term break.

Yours sincerely



Mr Mark Arnull  
Head of School

