



February 2022

End of Half Term Letter

Dear Family

It has been a welcome return to something approaching normality in the Academy this half term. Covid restrictions are easing and despite some pinch points with staffing it seems that we are finally coming through the worst of this.

Despite this it is really pleasing that our attendance for the year currently stands at over 94%. Though this is below the target we would set ourselves in a normal year, nationally, secondary schools' attendance is at 87% so I would like to thank you for the way you have continued to support students' education by ensuring they are with us.

There has been a lot happening this half term. From the tests and examinations at the beginning of the year, to extra-curricular successes from areas as diverse as debating to handball.

We look forward to even more opportunities including trips and visits opening up throughout the rest of the year as the Covid situation improves and would encourage everyone to consider if there are clubs they would like to join when we relaunch them soon.

End of Term

The half-term will end at the normal time of **3:25pm on Friday 18th February 2022**. Students will be dismissed as normal.

Return to the Academy

Students should return to the Academy on **Monday 28th February 2022** at the normal start time of 8:45am.

AskOla

Our Year 7 students have recently been given access on a trial basis to askOLA, an online tool that can support students with their learning and homework. The service is available 3:30pm – 10pm on weekdays and 9am – 9pm at weekends. Further details from askOLA are below and we would encourage students to have a go at using the site. Students have been shown in school how to access the site and they can log in using their school sign-in details. A video is available [here](#).

World Book Day

World Book Day is on Thursday 3rd March and we will be celebrating this with competitions and prizes, book tokens and more. More information will be provided in a communication after half term.

Family Forum

Family Forum will be on **Wednesday 16th March at 5:00pm**. This will be an in-person event at the Academy and is an opportunity to come and hear about our work as well as pose any questions you may have to the Principal. Please contact reception by phone or email if you would like to attend so we can gauge numbers for capacity and catering.

Examination Results and Edulink

Examination results should be with you tomorrow. These contain the results of the examinations taken during January and are being sent home with students. They can also be accessed through Edulink. If you have not yet signed up to Edulink we can send you a reminder of your username and password. If you do not receive the exam results, then please contact the Academy. If you wish to speak to any teachers about the results please contact reception after the half term break.

Data Collection Forms

You will receive a copy of the contact details that we hold for you with your child's statement of exam results. Please check them through carefully and let us know if any of the contact details are incorrect or need to be updated. It is vital that we are able to contact a parent/carer or family member in case a child is ill or there is an emergency. If you are not able to have your phone switched on at work etc, please make sure that we have contact details for someone who would be able to collect your child in case of emergency.

Set / Group Changes

Following the examinations there may be some set and group changes for after the half term. This could be due to academic performance or because we feel that groups would benefit from a different social mix.

Intervention Plans

We deliver a number of activities during morning form time sessions, including PSHE and RSE, assemblies, key skills and a range of catch-up and intervention sessions. Over the past half term students have benefitted from extra English, Maths, Science, Literacy skills and Revision skills. Some students have received additional small group withdrawals and tuition to help to close any gaps in knowledge and improve progress following the disruption of the last two years. The examination and assessment results that you will receive tomorrow will also help to inform our future interventions over the next term. We will be investing in revision and catch-up materials for students to support them with their homework and revision as well as a programme of sessions within the Academy day. Reading will be a big priority for a number of students over the next term and we will provide more information about how you may be able to support your child to become a more confident reader.

PSHE, RSE and Safeguarding

In recent weeks students have completed a number of different activities as part of their PSHE and RSE curriculum. All year groups have also received information and assemblies on the topic of sexual harassment and online safety, among other areas. Our work within these important areas will continue and details of the programme and our policy can be found on our website and resources will be shared on the Student Portal. These topics are important to cover with students as it will equip them with knowledge, skills, attitudes and values that will empower them to realize their health, well-being and dignity; develop happy and respectful social and sexual relationships; consider how their choices affect their own well-being and that of others; and understand and ensure the protection of their rights throughout their lives.

If you would like further information please contact the Academy and ask to speak to a member of the Safeguarding Team. We ask that you support us in reinforcing these important messages with your child.

Uniform

Our students generally look very smart and we appreciate your support with this. There are a few students with some uniform issues and we would ask that you please correct these over half term. Uniform inspections will take place on Tuesday March 1st. The Academy sells ties from the main office which can be paid for from your Parent Pay account.

Covid and Facemasks

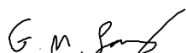
Facemasks are no longer required in the Academy, though can be worn by students or staff in corridors if they wish. The government now recommends that they are no longer worn in classrooms. We have taken a very soft approach to this at the moment but would like to move to a point that we can return to an Academy free of facemasks as the situation improves.

Holidays in Term Time

We have had a number of requests for holiday during term time. The Academy can only grant permission in the most exceptional circumstances. We cannot provide permission for holidays, extended weddings or visits to relatives. In cases where a student is absent abroad for 4 weeks then the Academy place may be withdrawn. I am also aware that students have had a very disrupted couple of years with Covid and it is more important than ever to make sure they do not miss out on further education.

This has been an excellent half term. I hope you all have a well-deserved rest and we look forward to seeing the students return on Monday, 28th February.

Yours sincerely



George Faux
Principal