



May 2022

End of Term Letter

Dear Family

It has been a short half term but one packed with activity, here are some of the highlights.

Year 7 learned about growing through their theme, including the Living Eggs project which saw live chicks in every classroom hatching from an egg. More recently they have been undertaking their Silent Movies project and we have been blown away by their creativity from their initial scripts to their acceptance speeches. There will be an Oscars celebration for the best films next half term.

Year 8 and 9 have been brushing up on their Computer Science through the national Apps for Good programme. Here they develop the idea for an iPhone app from scratch. During this they have had real figures from industry providing feedback on their ideas from companies such as Mastercard and Lego.

We are delighted to say that we have one team from Year 8 and one team from Year 9 through to the national finals! As we always say, our students are capable of competing with students from anywhere if they seize their opportunities and these two teams have beaten out 28,000 other students to get to this stage.

Year 8 have also begun their Please Sir theme, starting with a visit to the Black Country Living Museum. Despite the imperfect weather, a good time was had by all.

It has been fantastic to be able to hold parents evening face to face for the first time with our Year 9 parents able to meet teachers they had never before met in person.

Outside of the classroom we have had all of our clubs and societies running and added in a number of events and competitions such as our sustainability competition, house badge design competition and a competition for usage of our AskOLA homework support package.

This letter contains some key information for next half term and the updated calendar for the beginning of the year.

End of Half Term

The term will end on **Friday 27th May 2022** at the normal time of 3:25pm, this is a normal day and there is no early finish.

Return to the Academy

Students should return to the Academy on **Monday 6th June 2022** at the normal time of 8:45am.

Inset Day

There is one final Academy inset day next term. This is scheduled to be on **Friday 1st July 2022**. The Academy will be closed to students on this day while staff receive essential training in preparation for starting our GCSE courses.

Parent/Carer Workshop

On Monday 13th June our counsellors from Mindful Life Balance will be delivering a workshop from 5-6pm on Self-Harm Awareness. This is aimed at parents/carers who wish to find out more about how to spot concerns in children and how best to support. It is a really informative session which has been delivered to other schools in our Trust. This session is for adults only. Please sign up via the form below. Please respond by Friday 10th June 2022.

<https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=M3cpbyH17EqwKDhN0u2mQ9XDJGH6g35PhPqXWCQ2PtUMVZOSFZSOVdTSFRXU1g0Uks4V0EwTVVaTS4u>

Platinum Jubilee

During half term it is the Platinum Jubilee Bank Holiday, as this falls in half term then families can celebrate at the time but the school year is also one day shorter and the term will finish one day earlier than it would have done so staff and students do get the day.

Parking

You may have seen that we have had some cross hatching added to the main entry to the Academy site. We would remind parents for the health and safety of the students please do not drop students off before the drop off or car park areas. It causes both congestion and the potential for accidents.

Holidays in Term Time

Please note that the Academy's ability to authorise absences is only in the most exceptional circumstances. We will not authorise any absences which require extended trips abroad for multiple weeks. We will not authorise any holidays in term time.

While it has been a difficult time and we understand some people have not been able to visit relatives in some time, students have also missed the largest amount of school in the history of education and taking students out for extended periods will make them fall behind.

Matilda

Our Hippodrome partnered Theatre School students have been working hard to put together our first ever school show, Matilda the Musical. Performance dates will be the 6th and 7th of July, more information about how to book tickets will be available in July. We also intend to hold a matinee performance for local primary students.

Free School Meals Vouchers

The council are again providing vouchers for students who normally receive free school meals over Half Term. These should come by e-mail and be to the value of £15 per child.

We have recently run an analysis of Free School meal student uptake of meals and there are some students who are not taking a meal when they could. You can access through parent pay the items your child has bought. Please contact the office if you have any questions about how to do this.

Options

We have been crunching the numbers for options and now we know the staffing complement for next year will need to come back to students where groups are oversubscribed in some instances. This will take place shortly after half term. We will look for voluntary changes in subject choices in the first instance.

Behaviour Sanctions

There are two changes to our behaviour sanctions we are putting in place. Students removed from a lesson twice in a week will be subject to an hour-long Friday PM detention.

Where appropriate, students will be asked to undertake litter picking or other site duties as a sanction. For example, leaving the canteen in a mess, damage to the site, eating in corridors or dropping litter may see students asked to support our site or catering team. This is important as it helps students to understand that those staff who work really hard to provide a beautiful environment are to be respected as an essential part of our team.

Mobile Phones

A reminder that phones must not be used in the Academy and must be switched off and in students' bags **NOT in blazers or coat pockets** or we will confiscate these and parents will be asked to collect. If we suspect that students have a phone on their person they may have their blazer searched and be asked to turn out their pockets. During uniform sweeps we may ask for all blazers to be placed on desks to be checked for phones.

Staffing Changes

We will have no staff leaving us at half term. It has been a busy few weeks for recruitment and we have already appointed nine new staff to join us in September. We have recently welcomed two new staff to the Academy during the half term.

Mrs Parkes – Librarian Mrs McQueen – Examinations Officer

After half term we will also have Miss Ebanks joining our Literacy for Life teaching team.

Final Message

Many thanks for all the support you have given the Academy and your children this Half Term. Next half term promises to be full of exciting activities before the summer. Again, my thanks goes out to the staff for all their hard work and my admiration to the students for the fine work they have produced. I wish you all a restful and happy break and look forward to seeing you all again after the holiday.

Yours sincerely



George Faux
Principal

Calendar for Final Half Term

Item	Date
Return to the Academy	6 June 2022
Year 7 and 9 Review Week	6 June 2022
Year 8 Over the Top Theme Begins	6 June 2022
Year 8 WW1 Focus Day with Live Actors	10 June 2022
Year 7 and 9 Exam Week	13 June 2022
Year 8 Review Week	13 June 2022
Parent Workshop – Signs of Self Harm	13 June 2022
Year 7 Off with Your Head Theme Begins	20 June 2022
Year 9 America Theme Begins	20 June 2022
Year 8 Exam Week	20 June 2022
Year 7 Stratford Trip	20 June 2022
Year 7 Parents Evening	21 June 2022
Year 9 Big Bang Fair Visit	24 June 2022
Family Forum	23 June 2022
Silent Movies Oscars	28 June 2022
Training Day	1 July 2022
Matilda the Musical	6 and 7 July 2022
Year 6 Transition Days	6 and 7 July 2022
Year 8 Elevate: Memory Mnemonics Experience	6 July 2022
Year 9 Elevate: Study Skills Kick Start Experience	7 July 2022
Year 8 Parents Evening	12 July 2022
Rewards Trips	20 July 2022
Final Day of Term (Half Day)	21 July 2022