



February 2023

End of Half Term Letter

Dear Families

I hope this letter finds you well and that your year has been off to a great start. Nearly six weeks have flown by since we returned from the Christmas break and it has been a very busy and productive time for the Academy.

There have been plenty of trips and visits. We have seen students out to Christ Church College at the University of Oxford as part of the Scholar's Programme and the University of Birmingham to take part in the Big Physics Quiz, where one of our teams reached the finals. Students in Year 7 attended a Pantomime at the Birmingham Hippodrome to supplement their Fairytales Literacy for Life theme. There have been trips out to several local places of worship including the Gurdwara, Church and Temple. Students also visited the National War Arboretum and we have been involved with a number of careers events, supported by local and national businesses and organisations.

In the Academy we have had an equally busy time. We have had a Year 8 Bollywood experience as part of the India theme, a CSI Focus Day with the mystery of who tried to kill Mr Faux. Our local Police Force have working with our Student Council, Amazon working with our GCSE Business Studies students, SEN Coffee Mornings, the Safeguarding Team have facilitated another workshop to support parents and teens, auditions have been held for our Summer Academy Performance, Shrek the Musical and much much more.

The remainder of this letter contains some important information on events coming up.

End of Term

The half term will end on Friday 17th February 2023. This will be at the normal finish time of 3:25pm.

Start of Spring Half Term 2

Students should return to the Academy on Monday 27th February at the normal start time of 8:45am.

Free School Meal Vouchers

As in previous holidays we are providing vouchers to families for students are eligible for Free School Meals. This should be to the value of £15 and should reach you via e-mail from the Wonde system. If there are any issues, please contact the Academy office.

Industrial Action

Last term the Academy closed for one day due to strike action by the NEU Teaching Union. There are further days of strike action planned for Wednesday 1st March 2023, Wednesday 15th March 2023 and Thursday 16th March 2023.

This is likely to cause some disruption at least to a number of year groups and potentially may lead to the Academy closing. We recommend that you consider plans to supervise your child on these dates in case they are needed. I apologise for the disruption; this is a national strike of teachers against the government pay award and not an individual strike against the Academy.

We will inform you at the earliest opportunity of the action the Academy will take on these days. We recognise the 1st March date is in the first week back. Negotiations are ongoing at a national level.

Uniform and Equipment

We aim to keep a high standard of uniform in the Academy. Can we please ask that any identified issues are picked up over half term? For example, replace missing ties or broken shoes. If families are struggling we operate a uniform bank and a hardship fund which may be able to assist. Please contact the Academy office if you need any help with uniform, or PE kit. We are finding increasing numbers of students without PE kit.

It is important that students come to the Academy properly equipped with a bag suitable for holding A4 books, pens and pencils and subject appropriate materials. Please quiz your children about this and help us with spot checks of what they are carrying to the Academy. All the information to support uniform and equipment can be found here: <https://wbca.school/the-academy/academy-uniform/>

We can and do lend uniform to students who arrive incorrectly dressed but this also comes with a break or lunch detention, especially where students have just 'forgotten' or 'couldn't find it'. Where a child is regularly without an item of uniform, we will contact you and ask that it is put right, and support is there if it is needed. It is important that students take responsibility for their belongings and look after them.

Work Experience Placements

For the first time this year, Year 10 will be undertaking Work Experience in the first week of July. At the moment we and the students are arranging placements, some from our provider list, some through personal connections. If you need support with this process please contact the Academy. If you think your workplace would be able to provide a work experience placement to one or several of our students and have interesting opportunities, please contact the Academy to find out how to get involved.

Appointments

We have been very busy recently recruiting teachers for September as we will have our first Year 11 cohort. At half term we have only made one change so far, with Mr Vaughan becoming our Head of Physical Education.

Careers and Options Evening

Year 9 are undertaking their Careers theme at the moment. On Thursday 9th March we will be hosting a number of colleges and training providers in the Academy and we will be holding our Year 9 Options Evening. If you have a child in Year 9 you will receive a separate letter outlining the process and inviting you to suggest a suitable time for you and your child to meet with a member of staff for an Options Guidance Interview. This is an important opportunity to support your child in thinking about their future and selecting the subjects that they will study in Year 10 and 11. We had originally planned to hold a short information evening on Thursday 16th February but the information will instead be covered in the letter and the Options Evening.

World Book Day

World Book Day is celebrated this year on the 2nd of March. There will be a series of Activities taking place in the Academy to link to this and the importance of reading. As in previous years, students in Years 7 and 8 are encouraged to dress as their favourite literary or book character for the day. We will be welcoming author, Danielle Jawando to the Academy on Monday 27th February and students will be taking part in Big Group Read of her novel 'When Worlds Collide' in preparation for this. If students enjoy the book, you can purchase it for half price on Parent Pay.

There will also be activities and quizzes for students to take part in, including 'The Masked Reader'. There is a poster attached to this letter to show you the range of activities available – thank you to Mrs Parkes and the L4L and English teams for their support with this.

End of Term

Term will end and the Easter Holidays begin on Friday 31st March 2023.

Final Message

This has been a very enjoyable half term with a huge amount happening in the Academy and we have been very proud of our students' achievements. We look forward to better weather, lighter days and more outdoor activities as we approach Spring and Summer. As always, many thanks to you all for your support to the Academy.

Yours sincerely

George Faux

Principal

Spring Term 2 Calendar

| Activity | Date |
|---|--|
| Start of Half Term | 27 th February 2023 |
| Author Visit in celebration of World Book Day | 27 th February 2023 |
| Potential Strike Day | 1 st March 2023 |
| World Book Day | 2 nd March 2023 |
| Trust-wide Ski Trip | 05 th March 2023 |
| Year 7 Water Theme Begins | 06 th March 2023 |
| Year 9 Careers and Options Evening | 09 th March 2023 |
| Year 7 Trip to Carding Mill Valley | 09 th March 2023 |
| Year 8 Apps for Good Theme begins | 13 th March 2023 |
| Potential Strike Days | 15 th and 16 th March 2023 |
| Year 10 Big Maths Quiz at Birmingham University | 22 nd March 2023 |
| Year 7 Severn Trent Water Speaker | 23 rd March 2023 |
| Options Return Deadline | 24 th March 2023 |
| Year 10 Geography Field Trip | 28 th March 2023 |
| End of Term | 31 st March 2023 |



WORLD
**BOOK
DAY**
2 MARCH 2023

Monday
Danielle
Fawando
visit!

Tuesday 🎵
Read a poem &
write some poetry.

Wednesday
Library
Scavenger Hunt 🔍

Thursday
WORLD BOOK DAY
Y7 & 8 dress-up as a book
character.
Y9 & 10 design a WBD
T-Shirt.
Library Scavenger Hunt 🔍
Quiz in
form time 📖

Friday
Bookish crafts
and competitions
in the library. 📖

