



September 2023

## Half Term 1 Midpoint Update

Dear Families

I hope this letter finds you well and that your year has been off to a great start. It has been a busy start to the year as even though we have only been back a few weeks we have had Open Evening, Year 11 Evening, trips out, clubs started, Macmillan cake sale, sporting fixtures and of course lots of hard work from our students.

We also had visits from Sir Mark, our School Improvement advisor and many sets of prospective parents all of whom were praising of the atmosphere and the students. I'd also like to thank all those who helped with open evening where I had a lot of complementary emails about the Academy and the student guides.

The following are some key information and forthcoming dates.

### End of Half Term

A heads up that we break for half term on Friday 27<sup>th</sup> October, this is a normal Academy day.

### Clubs

Clubs and societies are now starting up, students can find information on what is on offer on the Student Portal. We have a great selection this year from Coding to Gardening, British Sign Language to a new Academy newspaper. Where numbers exceed places we will try and run as fair an allocation as possible, through a lottery or running a week A and a week B for clubs.

Homework Club is now available on Monday and Wednesday until 4:00pm and Thursday until 4:30pm, our librarian, Mrs Parkes is available to help students during this time and students can use their devices in school to complete online homework.

### Year 11 Revision

Year 11 should be very busy! Departments are providing weekly revision guidance which should come out to students and parents each week. Students not undertaking their revision will be asked to remain behind on Friday for Academic intervention. We also have a lot of intervention and catchup sessions throughout the week – the details are attached to this letter.

## **Uniform and Winter Weather**

Generally, we have been really proud of our students and the way they look. As we approach the winter months please ensure that students have a warm coat with them. If you are struggling around uniform we have a swap shop and also a hardship fund, please contact reception or Safeguarding.

We would ask that students do not bring hoodies, tracksuit tops or tech fleeces to the Academy and would remind that blazers are a compulsory uniform item and students should not just wear a jumper.

## **Equipment**

Year 7 have got this completely right but occasionally we are seeing people in older year groups coming to lessons unprepared. Please check with your child that they still have all of the equipment that they need. Again we are very happy to support if families are struggling.

### Compulsory equipment:

Black pen, pencil, ruler, green pen, rubber, sharpener, glue stick, whiteboard pen, planner (Y7-10), school bag.

### Recommended equipment:

Scientific calculator and geometry set (compass and protractor).

## **Use of Text Message to Communicate Detentions in Advance**

As you know, students may be kept behind for a 10 minute detention at the end of the day, for being late, having incorrect uniform or for minor incidents.

We are required to give you notice of any detentions or after school intervention sessions that are longer than 10 minutes long and will do this by sending a text message to the priority 1 contacts that are linked to your child. The text will give brief details of the date, duration and nature of the detention or intervention session.

## **Use of Edulink Noticeboard**

Please check Edulink regularly for updates on the noticeboard.

If you haven't downloaded the app for smartphones it is worth looking into – it is very easy to use and user friendly. Edulink is where you can view reports on your child when they are published, make bookings for Parents Evenings, report absences and much more. Please pop into reception if you need any help with Edulink.

### **Lock Down Procedure**

We are introducing a new Lockdown Process in the Academy in case there was ever an intruder onsite. This involves a different alarm to our fire alarm and students sheltering in place. Or entering the building to designated places if there was an incident at break or lunch time. Students will be informed of the process in Assembly and a drill will be run in Week 6.

### **Duke of Edinburgh Award**

We are delighted to say we are now part of the Duke of Edinburgh Award and will be running the Bronze Award with Year 9 throughout the year. There are 30 Year 9 places and Year 9 students can sign up through the form provided by Miss Lees.

### **Year 7 Settling in Evening – Thursday 12 October**

For Year 7 students, we have a settling in evening on Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> October. This is an opportunity to hear from you child's teacher and see how they have been getting on in the first few weeks of their secondary school journey. If you have a child in Year 7 you will receive details on how to book an appointment with your child's form teacher on Edulink. If you have not yet been able to log into Edulink, please contact the office who will be able to help you.

### **SEN Settling in Evening – Thursday 12 October**

Parents/Carers of SEN children will be contacted to make an appointment with their child's Key Worker to discuss the progress made so far.

### **Canopy**

You may have seen we had a major outdoor building work completed over the summer. This allowed us to have a big expansion to our dining facilities with an additional 100 seats planned. There is further work to do, including the fixings to the main building and an extra servery which should be completed by October half term.

### **Final Words**

I hope you found this update useful, there follows key dates for the term. We have had a strong start to the year, I would like to thank you all for your support.

Mr Faux  
**Principal**



### Autumn Term Calendar

<b>Activity</b>	<b>Date</b>
Black History Month begins	<b>Monday, 2 October 2023</b>
Y9 L4L trip to the Botanical Gardens, Birmingham – 9.1, 9.2, 9.3	<b>Monday, 2 October 2023</b>
Y9 L4L trip to the Botanical Gardens, Birmingham – 9.4, 9.5, 9.6	<b>Tuesday, 3 October 2023</b>
National Poetry Day	<b>Thursday, 5 October 2023</b>
Mental Health Awareness Day	<b>Monday, 9 October 2023</b>
Focus Day for all year groups	<b>Wednesday, 11 October 2023</b>
Year 11 Post-16 Parent Information Evening	<b>Wednesday, 11 October 2023</b>
Y7 Settling In Evening, SEND Settling In Evening	<b>Thursday, 12 October 2023</b>
Y9 Geographical Association Quiz	<b>Thursday, 12 October 2023</b>
Y8 L4L Trip to Birmingham Library/Architecture Trail (3 classes)	<b>Tuesday, 17 October 2023</b>
Y8 L4L Trip to Birmingham Library/Architecture Trail (3 classes)	<b>Wednesday, 18 October 2023</b>
Y7 L4L Trip to Warwick Castle	<b>Tuesday, 24 October 2023</b>
Y11 AP1 Predicted Grades Reported Home	<b>Wednesday, 25 October 2023</b>
Parent/Carer Self-Harm Workshop, 5pm – 6:30pm	<b>Thursday, 16 October 2023</b>
Half Term	<b>Friday, 27 October 2023</b>
Start of Autumn Term 2	<b>Monday, 6 November 2023F</b>
Y11 Autumn Mock Exams Begin	<b>Monday, 6 November 2023</b>
Y7 Knife Crime Focus Day	<b>Tuesday, 7 October 2023</b>
Y9 L4L Trip – National Memorial Arboretum (3 classes)	<b>Monday, 13 November 2023</b>
Y9 L4L Trip – National Memorial Arboretum (3 classes)	<b>Tuesday, 11 November 2023</b>
Children In Need Fundraising Day	<b>Thursday, 16 November 2023</b>
INSET DAY	<b>Friday, 17 November 2023</b>
Road Safety Week	<b>Monday, 20 November 2023</b>
Y7-10 Autumn Exams Begin	<b>Monday, 20 November 2023</b>
Choir Concert TBC	<b>Thursday, 7 December 2023</b>
Save the Children Christmas Jumper Day	<b>Friday, 8 December 2023</b>
Y8 L4L Slum Experience	<b>Monday, 11 December 2023</b>
A Christmas Carol Theatre Production for Y8	<b>Wednesday, 13 December 2023</b>
AP1 Data Reported Home – Y7-10	<b>Wednesday, 13 December 2023</b>
Academy Christmas Performance	<b>Wednesday, 20 December 2023</b>
Christmas Fair	<b>Thursday, 21 December 2023</b>