

5th April 2022

Dear Parent/Carer

As we come to the end of another term, I want to start by thanking you for your support. It has been a challenging year for all of us, from ongoing issues with COVID to freak storms and horrible weather, and your support through it all has been very much appreciated. We have tried our best, in these circumstances, to give enrichment and other learning experiences to our students.

Key Highlights include:

World Theatre Day and World Book Day where staff and students celebrated together by dressing up as favourite characters and completing a range of activities such as quizzes and exploration tasks.

Our L4S day at OSCA: students in Years 7 to 10 competed to design their own university as part of our enterprise and careers curriculum. The final groups were amazing – so much better than the competitors on this year's apprentice! We also had our careers focus week across the academy.

Launch of the Morocco trip for 2023 and a range of other trips, after school clubs and sporting events.

Please see our Newsletter on our website for further details.

It is with regret our academy performance of School of Rock has had to be postponed – but I know all of the cast, front and back of stage, will give us a brilliant show after the Easter break.

Changes after Easter to break times:

Our current academy day means two breaks and two lunches – split by key stage. This was to accommodate all students in a timely fashion, give younger students a place at break away from older students and to maintain a system which was easier to turn back into bubbles, if the need arose.

As you will be aware the Government has further relaxed official guidance on the road to recovery from the Covid 19 pandemic. We are now planning for a return to a more usual breaktime. After Easter, we will be returning to one break time for all students. Break will be after L4S, so the day will be as follows – lesson 1, lesson 2, L4S and then break. This will facilitate the return of assemblies that make such a difference to our ethos and allow for the longer GCSE exams this summer. The rest of the day remains unchanged.

We know that some of you may be anxious about this, and we hope we can offer you reassurance that, as always, the safety and wellbeing of our students and staff is at the heart of every decision we make.

Some key points for your information:

- **Students are used to mixing at lesson changeovers, before school and after school**
- **KS3 and KS4 will have clear outside zones where they are allowed to be, these have been shared this week with students in assemblies – this helps maintain spaces for use by some of our younger students**

- **KS3 will use the Dining Hall to buy food and to sit, KS4 will use the foyer – with more staff manning tills**
- **Students will be walked through these zones by their tutor on their first day back after Easter – Tuesday 26th April - so that all students have a clear understanding of our expectations and routines. Staff can reassure and answer questions during this time**
- **Staff on duty outside will wear hi viz jackets so they can easily be identified by students**
- **We will be keeping our enhanced cleaning regime for now so all communal areas and touch points will be cleaned regularly throughout the day**

Having an opportunity to bring back assemblies, which are so important for our ethos and culture, as well as making the day logistically simpler for students as we move into exam season, is the best thing for our students.

Students return from the half term break on **Tuesday 26th April**. There are a few reminders below to ensure we have a fantastic start to the next half term and that the focus is on high standards and expectations for all.

- Students should be on site by **8:30am** and in lessons ready to learn at **8:35am**. If not, students are late to the academy and will be issued with a 20-minute late detention at the end of the academy day. Students are also expected to be punctual to all lessons
- All students should be in either full academy uniform or full PE kit on the days they have PE or Dance only. Leggings for PE kit are not allowed, students should have either OSCA shorts and/or jogging bottoms. Trainers with full uniform are not allowed and students should be wearing shoes. The academy hoodie should not be worn instead of a blazer. Students who do continue to wear a mix and match uniform or incorrect PE Kit will no longer be able to wear PE kit to the academy and will have to change for PE lessons at school. This seems to be an ongoing issue for some students, and we ask for your support in ensuring students get this right
- Students are expected to bring a bag and stationery to school so they are ready to learn
- Students should ensure they are safe on their way to and from the academy by paying attention to road safety advice and behaving in a respectful way to all other members of our community
- If any student feels they need extra support or guidance during the Easter break they can access our online safeguarding portal called SHARP via our website or Kooth.com

I have always enjoyed the Easter break as not only does it give you plenty of time to catch up with loved ones, but, for me, it also involves chocolate! Whatever your plans are for the next two weeks I hope you and your loved ones get the chance to relax and spend time together. Next term is a busy one, with Yr 11 making final preparations for exams, Yr 9s looking towards their future studies and lots of other school activities for all students to get involved with, so it's important we are all rested and ready for the term to come.

Can I also take this opportunity to say happy Eid in early May to those of you who celebrate this occasion.

Thank you again for your ongoing support.

Yours faithfully



Faye Cutler
Principal