

15th December 2020

Dear Parents and Carers,

First and foremost, for my end of term letter I want to thank you all for your ongoing support and patience. As you know, this has been my first year of headship and it has certainly been a challenge like no other. Although the autumn term has been fraught with difficulties, I am delighted at the way our staff and students have pulled together in this difficult time. Charles Du Gaulle once said “Character is the virtue of hard times” and I am proud of the character our school community has shown throughout the term in making it such a success in so many ways.

During the impending Christmas and New Year break, I hope you and your families make the most of the time at home and are able to recharge and reflect on the year gone by. Looking back at 2020, I am filled with awe at the exceptional work our teachers and staff have done in maintaining a thriving school community both online and since we returned in September. Although planning for our September reopening was the most difficult of challenges, as a school community we have risen to the task and by all measures have gone from strength to strength. There are many things in the new academy day that we may well keep in place once covid is long gone and this is testament to the planning and preparation completed in making sure we offer the best possible provision for our young people.

The week ahead – the show must go on

As you would have seen in the communication sent home on Friday, the last day of term for students will be **Thursday 17th December**, students will begin to be dismissed from **midday to 12:30**. On this day students can dress in Christmas jumpers or mufti and will be able to donate £1 to Save the Children. As part of our end of term celebration, our Music, Dance and Drama departments have been hard at work recording and editing our Winter Showcase which will be shown to students during their form time on the final day of school.

A Message from Mr Booth, Executive Principal

Well, this term has been like non-other that I can remember in my career. It has demonstrated the resilience of the staff and students and the partnership we have with all our families. Dealing with tough situations brings either the best or worst out in people and I am glad to say I have only seen the best. So firstly, a huge thank you for your patience and cooperation with us as we try to navigate unfamiliar waters.

I am very pleased to be nearing the end of the term and like many of you are in need of a rest and relaxation with family. I am pleased we all will be at least able to socialise with friends and family members over the festive season. This season, whatever your beliefs, brings with it a message of hope and peace. My prayer for you all is that 2021 is a year of hope and with it comes peace in our country, region and community. We need each other in a similar way at other post World War II occasions, so let us be mindful of each other as we move into a new year that is unknown. Wishing you a blessed Christmas and New Year.



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We look forward to welcoming our students back to the Academy on **Tuesday, 5th January**, please may we remind parents and carers, should your child be unwell, it is crucial they stay at home and do not come to the Academy. Should they have any covid symptoms, please have a test carried out immediately. We ask you all to remain vigilant during the holidays and wish you all a safe and happy Christmas and New Year.

Yours sincerely,



Mr S Chaudhri
Interim Principal, Secondary ph. and Sixth Form



Mr A S Booth
Executive Principal



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Principal - Ms J Botley
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