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Headteacher: Mr S Yalden BSc (Hons) PGCE NPQH

8 December 2023

Dear Parent/Carer

As we near the end of the current term and look forward to Christmas, I am writing to update you on some of the academy's activities and information.

### **Christmas Celebrations**

Next week we celebrate Christmas and students have the traditional Christmas events to look forward to.

Christmas lunch will be on Wednesday 13 December. There will be no food served by the canteen at morning break on this day and lunchtime will be staggered so that there is ample time for all students to participate who wish to. If your child wishes to have lunch, please ensure there are funds on ParentPay as it's always very popular (current cost £2.75). If not they will need to bring a packed lunch.

The last day of term is Tuesday 19 December. Students will be allowed to wear a Christmas jumper on this day. Normal academy uniform should otherwise be worn.

Our Christmas concert will be on Wednesday 13 December at 7pm. Tickets are available on ParentPay at a cost of £3 per person. We look forward to bands, singers, dance and the cheer team plus our choir's performances.

### **Uniform**

As the temperature has dropped just a reminder that students can wear a plain black V-neck jumper beneath their blazer as an additional layer if they feel cold. Outdoor coats can be worn outside at break and lunchtime should your child wish to spend time outside at social time.

### **Staffing**

At the end of term, we say farewell to Mrs Hallworth, Senior Teacher who is retiring after 25 years at the Academy we wish to thank her for her many years of dedicated service. I am sure that many of you reading this will be able to recall either personally, or for your child, a positive memory of her support and teaching.

Also leaving us are; Mrs Ward, teacher of maths, Mr Webster, teacher of PE and technology and Miss Lee, teacher of English and Drama, who are leaving us to join other schools, we wish to thank them very much for all they have done during their time here and wish them well for the future.

At the start of next term we welcome Miss Davis to the Learning Support team.

## **Teaching and Learning Marking and Feedback**

Students have recently had assemblies about receiving feedback from teachers. We want students to recognise that feedback is essential for them to progress and improve and that feedback should not be seen as a threat. We are trying to help students to become assessment capable learners, who understand what they need to do to get better through practice. Students have recently told us in a survey that they prefer feedback that is live and specific, and that it is important that they have time to act on any feedback. Departments are currently reviewing ways of using feedback to ensure it is motivational and meaningful and that students have time to make improvements.

Students who have completed mock exams will have been given feedback from their teachers and have had dedicated improvement and reflection time to advance their progress and learn from any misconceptions. We have been very proud of our students and how they have prepared and conducted themselves under examination conditions. A massive well done to KS4. Study for the Summer exams should start now as research suggests little and often is key along with cramming towards the end of Spring. Cramming does not work without revisiting throughout courses.

### **Celebrating mistakes in Learning!**

Sticking at learning can sometimes be hard. Learning is never intended to be easy and having a growth mindset and accepting mistakes are part of learning. Please encourage your child to show resilience when learning is hard; to stick with learning even if they make a mistake (this is expected) and to ask lots of questions in lessons - this is an essential skill that we are asking students to demonstrate for house points.

### **Resources available for you, to help your child with their learning:**

Please continue to encourage your child to read at home, we expect at KS3 students to be reading at least three times per week for twenty minutes. If your child would prefer to read non-fiction, you can access the following resource with articles and comprehension quizzes about all sorts of wonderful phenomenon - [www.theday.co.uk](http://www.theday.co.uk) Username: looecommunity Password: theday

Next term's KS3's 'Need to Knows' will be available on our website [here](#). KS4 revision guidance is available [here](#).

## **Challenge Week**

Staff are currently finalising the details of their Challenge Week packages for June 2024.

There will be a booklet published in the new year so that students and their families can make decisions around which package to choose for the week. As in previous years some activities will be completely free whereas other trips such as to the Isles of Scilly will be around the £600 mark so there will be something for every budget and a range of activities to suit everyone. Initially for packages with a cost, there will be a £50 deposit payable when the bookings are made available.

The Year 10 students will be undertaking their work experience placements during this week. Please remind them of the need to secure a placement with a business. Any queries about this can be directed to Mrs Reynolds who is co-ordinating work experience.

The Academy breaks for the holidays on Tuesday 19 December and reopens for students on Friday 5 January 2024.

I wish you a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Yours faithfully



**Mr Scott Yalden**  
**Headteacher**