

Dear Parents/Carers

As the holiday approaches we wish you a wonderful break and hope we get some pleasant weather to enjoy it. As you can see from the information shared, we have seen some real achievements in all areas this year so far. We are grateful to Mrs Rush for leading two productions this year - one at Christmas and one this week. The children have loved taking part and it was lovely to invite the primary children to watch. They all had such a great time.

Our sports teams have had some amazing achievements this academic year with some stunning individual performances too. We are excited to be in the process of purchasing our own minibus to help with the transportation between schools etc.

We have a new Operations Manager Ms Hannah Bown who has done an incredible job with providing opportunities for the students. This includes our Fair Play Project on Monday evenings 6.30-8.30pm, in partnership with Young and Safe street based team & GTFC. This is a free football session for children in the community ages 12-19 and last week we saw 73 children attend. We have also secured funding to improve our sports area and over the break we will be refurbishing the gym for the students with new flooring, equipment and graphics to make the environment more exciting for them.

Over the break we are repeating our HAF event which sees 60 free places for free school meals children + who can enjoy a hot meal, snacks, Easter egg and join in events such as boxing, dancing, Youth club etc. This also took place over the Christmas break and was highly successful.

We are still experiencing issues on a Monday morning with friendship group fallouts over the weekend over phones/social media etc. We share parents' frustration with these issues, and they are incredibly difficult to manage as the academy has no powers over the control of phone use over the weekends/holidays but we do endeavour to pick up the issues as quickly as possible and we appreciate your support. I regularly reflect that I am pleased I had a childhood without phones etc, but this is the new normal and we will continue to work as hard as possible to support where we can in our capacity as educators.

You will have also received a letter from Mr Gallafent around uniform, this is incredibly important as it does have an impact on behaviour and standards in the academy. We thank you for your ongoing support for this and ask that you use the holiday period to pick up any items your child will need for the new summer term.

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Next term will see the Year 11's starting into their examinations, and I have to say they have been a credit to the academy with their mature attitudes to their studies and in general around the academy. We have interventions going on over the Easter period which will be advertised on our Facebook page, and we would encourage students to attend as they do have an impact.

So, to sign off I will just say thank you again to you all for your ongoing support. We have had some very useful feedback from parents this term about a variety of things and we are looking to improve always so please keep letting us know your opinions as we do welcome them.

Yours sincerely

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Mrs Sara McLoughlin

Principal





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