

18 December 2023

End of Term Letter Christmas

Dear Parents/Carers,

This has been a very busy but rewarding term for the students at the Academy. They have been able to access many opportunities and events beyond their normal curriculum. In recent weeks students have been to the theatre, represented the Academy in a number of sporting events, sang at the Mayor's carol service and most recently visited one of our community retirement homes. I could not be more proud of the way the students have conducted themselves on all of these occasions.

Our new building is on track for its completion and I am looking forward to taking those students who have achieved all E1's in their Praising Stars report into the building for a tour this week. In order to help you understand your child's progress we have added a video tutorial for the new Praising Stars report to our social media channels this week. This will be of particular importance to parents of students in Year 10, who will now be receiving numerical grades to reflect their GCSE attainment.

May I take this opportunity to thank you for all of your support during this term. You have continued to support myself and the staff at the Academy as we continue to improve this Academy's attainment, attendance and culture.

Our attendance team has worked relentlessly to support many of you in improving your child's attendance to the Academy. This term they have undertaken 1248 home visits, as well as undertaken 124 attendance meetings. Our median attendance is 93%, whilst this term alone over 100 students still have 100% attendance since the start of the year, and the majority of students have attendance between 90-95%.

To support this team further I would be grateful if you ensure that when home visits are made, that you contact the Academy at your earliest convenience if you are not in to discuss your child's attendance. The attendance team have identified absence patterns, and supported students who have suffered from emotionally based school avoidance to improve their attendance. However, it is imperative that as parents/carers you understand that your child's attendance is likely to be the most important factor in their educational attainment, and it is your responsibility to ensure they attend school. Commitment to a rounded education is the key to a bright future. Working hard, especially in numeracy and literacy, lead to broader opportunities for a young person beyond their time at school.

**The Academy re-opens to staff and students on Wednesday 3rd January 2024 at 8.20am.**

I hope many of you are able to enjoy time with your friends and family and celebrate Christmas. The return to school brings an expectation of uniform standards being met. At this juncture can I draw your attention to the uniform guidance that is placed on our [website](#). In such financially challenging times, if you require additional support with your child's uniform please contact us via [enquiries@bishopsgarth.outwood.com](mailto:enquiries@bishopsgarth.outwood.com) and your request will be dealt with sensitively.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank those staff who are leaving the Academy for their service and dedication to the students during their time here. We say goodbye to Miss Fox and Mrs Beaumont and wish them all the best in their new ventures. We will be welcoming in January Miss Farrow-Hamblen as well as introducing a literacy and numeracy intervention programme into KS3.

In January we will be introducing a new 'minors' system to help with the desire to raise standards and improve the academy further. This system will involve your child receiving a 'minor' if they are found to be doing one of the following:

- Wearing a coat/hoodie/jacket inside the building (except for at the end of the day).
- Eating food outside of the dining hall / littering in the Academy
- Conducting themselves in a manner not befitting being safe and responsible on the corridors.

At the point in which your child accumulates 10 'minors' you will be notified that they have persistently infringed the rules within the Academy and they will be issued with a C5 sanction.

Coats are permitted to be worn outside the building, but must be carried when inside. Hoodies are not allowed. If classrooms become cold over the winter during our ongoing remedial works, students will be permitted to wear their coats at the discretion of the teacher.

All students are responsible for their own organisation and equipment. This is part of their preparation for the world of work beyond school. All students are expected to have a bag for their books, planner and PE kit. They should carry their planner upon arrival to school at the gate and have it on their desk in every lesson. Their planner includes a copy of their timetable, which they should check in good time to ensure they take the most direct route to their next lesson to avoid being late. Punctuality is a habit students will require for their working life.

#### Parent Information Events


**Year 9** parents/carers will be invited to the Guided Pathways (options) evening on **Thursday 11th January at 4.00-6.00pm** to help them make their choices for Key Stage 4.

**Year 10** parents/carers will be invited to two events. One will be the 'Welcome to Key Stage 4' pie and pea information evening on **Tuesday 9th January at 5.00-6.00pm**, the second will be the Praising Stars 2 **Parents Evening on Tuesday 23rd January 3.00 - 6.00pm** to find out how well they have started their GCSE courses.

**Year 11** parents/carers will be invited to the Praising Stars 2 parents evening on **Tuesday 23rd January 3.00 - 6.00pm**. The Year 11 students will commence their final mock examinations on Monday 25th February for two weeks.

Finally, may I wish you all a restful and joyful Christmas with your loved ones. I hope the students take this opportunity to be kind and supportive whilst at home. We will be looking forward to seeing what 2024 brings for this community when we open for staff and students on **Tuesday 3 January 2024 at 8.20 am**.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J Rhodes', written over a horizontal line.

Mr Jason Rhodes  
Head of School