

Friday 12th May 2023

Dear Parent/Carer,

Whilst it has been lovely to have the two bank holidays, we are all looking forward to a more normal week and to A Level and GCSE examinations finally starting. Please note we have moved our annual Sports Day to 12th June to avoid a potential clash with Eid Al Adha.

Year 8 Residential

Our Year 8s and fourteen exhausted staff returned to the Academy a week ago today after a brilliant trip down to Dorset. Check out our website to read all about it and see some photographs. I am indebted to my staff for ensuring that Year 8 could have this incredible opportunity as well as to you. I know it may not have been easy to put money aside for this trip but it really was worth every penny.

Mental Health Awareness Week

We continue to focus on students' mental health and spend a lot of time in Coaching Time, assemblies and through our Pastoral Development curriculum helping students take care of their mental health. This will be a focus in CT before half term. We also have an excellent & long standing partnership with Place2Be which works with the Academy to support students' mental health. If you have any concerns about your child's mental health and/or wellbeing, please get in touch with either their Learning Coach or Head of Year.

I am delighted to inform you that we have appointed Sarah Orchard to start at the Academy after half term. She will replace Ms. Sanders who led the Inclusion Support Centre (ISC) until she left for a promotion in April.

Year 11 & 13 Exams

We wish students the very best of luck for the start of the examination season. They have worked hard and deserve to do well. Y13 have had some communication about their Leavers' event on Wednesday and then the start of their Study Leave. Y11 will receive some information about arrangements for their Study Leave in the next few weeks. A huge thank you to all our parents and carers for their support. I know how exhausting and relentless it all is but very much worth it in the end.

A reminder of key dates for your diary:

- *Half-Term break- Monday 29th May 2023 - Friday 2nd June*
- Sports Day - Monday 12th June * **New date** *
- Awards Evening - Monday 3rd July
- Summer Concert - Thursday 13th July
- CA Culture Day Friday - 14th July
- Last day of term for students - Friday 21st July

And finally a message from our Chaplain, Mr. van Kan:

Looking ahead to the next few weeks, our upcoming theme of the week is based on **'bearing good fruit'**, which is quite befitting to the season our Year 11 and 13 students are currently in. Many of our wonderful students have worked very hard and have been very determined to obtain the knowledge they need to successfully sit their exams. Therefore, as the exam season begins for them; we pray that their hard work will bear good fruit for their futures and that God will give our students clarity as they study, and a sound mind filled with peace as they sit their exams.

May the peace of Christ be with you all, and have a blessed week ahead.

I hope you have a great weekend.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mariella Ardron". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Mariella Ardron
Principal