

Friday 24th November 2023

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope by now you have had a chance to read the Ofsted report. I spoke to students last week in assemblies and whilst we may have 'dropped' a grade according to the current Ofsted framework, there is much that is truly outstanding and excellent at our Academy. As staff we are excited and energised about the areas we are developing. We are passionate and committed to ensuring strong learning for all students and a brilliant wider Academy experience.

I enjoyed talking to many Year 8 parents and carers last week at the Progress Evening and look forward to doing so with Year 13 families next week. Thank you for making the time to come out on these dark and often rainy evenings. These conversations with your child's teachers are so important and we value them greatly.

Year 11 start their mock GCSE examinations in exactly a fortnight. Please support your child if she/he is in Year 11 with somewhere quiet to work where possible and ensure that they eat and sleep well during this time. Encourage them to attend the many additional revision classes and sessions on offer right now. And finally take those phones and laptops out of their bedroom. Whilst I am frequently told by my three children I am the only parent that does this, I know I am not!

A reminder that students do not return to the Academy until the slightly later date of Wednesday 10th January, next term. However 2024 is a while away yet! Ahead of that we have some wonderful Christmas events planned including our service at St. Luke's, Celebration assemblies, Christmas lunches and our annual Christmas Concert.

Finally we've been asked by the Children's Commissioner for England to [share a survey](#) to find out the views of young people ahead of the general election. Please see the flyer included with this letter for more information.

Chaplain's message

As we are approaching the wonderful Advent season, our Academy is uniting in the spirit of giving, with a special focus on our new 'Food Bank' initiative this year to spread the joys of Christmas to those in need. As many of us prepare our hearts and homes for the celebration of Christ's birth, we encourage all our parents and carers to reflect on how giving can be a blessing to others. Please stay tuned for more information next week when we will be reaching out via email to provide more details about this Christmas charity initiative. This will include ways in which families can participate and contribute to making this Christmas season a source of comfort and joy for those in our local community who are less fortunate.

Have a lovely weekend.

Yours faithfully,



Mariella Ardron
Principal

Useful dates

- **Year 7 – 11 Nasal Flu Vaccination** 28/11/23 [click here to give consent](#)
- **Year 13 Progress Evening** 30/11/23
- **Year 11 Mock exams** 8/12/23 - 20/12/23 inclusive
- **Christmas Concert** 14/12/23 starting at 5.30pm
- **Last day of term** 21/12/23 at midday
- **All Students Return** 10/01/24 at normal time
- ***New* Culture and Identity Day** 21/02/24



THE **BIG** AMBITION

The Children's Commissioner for England has recently launched 'The Big Ambition' to hear directly from children, young people and parents across the country.

We want to hear from all children, in every part of the country and in every setting.

This is your chance to tell key policymakers what is important to you ahead of the general election. Take part now and ensure your needs are reflected in the decisions that will affect you in years to come.

Scan the QR code to
take part



 **CHILDREN'S
COMMISSIONER**

www.childrenscommissioner.gov.uk/thebigambition

