

Friday 7th February 2025

Dear parents and carers,

**Our Academy production 2025! 'Back to the 80s'**

Last night saw the opening of this wonderful musical. I was literally dancing in my seat much to the amusement of my colleagues on either side of me! Well done to our brilliant cast and to the staff, led by Mrs. Tomlinson, for all their hard work and hours of rehearsals. There are a small number of tickets left for this evening's show.

**Reminder about the appropriate use of Academy Chromebooks**

Recently there has been an increase in the number of alerts picked up by Academy's filtering software (a legal requirement for schools to have), regarding searches and references made to areas of concern. This includes references to violence, alcohol, drugs and sex. This week we have reminded students that if they are either using an Academy chromebook, or their google Academy log in on another device, their searches may trigger an alert. This applies in, and out of the Academy, including during holidays. Students are reminded of this each time they sign in, by agreeing to the Acceptable Use Policy (this is included with this letter for your information). Once an alert is received, staff from the Academy, usually a student's Head of Year, will then follow up with the student and parent/carer to address any concerns. If you are unsure how to best support your child with online safety, please start by looking at the childnet resources here: <https://www.childnet.com/resources/parent-and-carer-toolkit/>. If you have any questions or concerns please contact your child's learning coach or Head of Year.

**Year 13 Mocks - after half term**

This is a reminder that Year 13 students start their last set of mock exams when we return from half term. These are an important final step in the exam preparation process, not least because they *could* be used to inform a student's grades if they were unable to take their external exams due to an unexpected change in circumstances. Please support your child with their revision programme at home over the holidays, but also give them those all-important reminders to rest, sleep, exercise and eat well!

**National Careers Week activities - 3rd to 7th March**

We are excited to announce that thanks to the support of our partners, we are able to offer a range of activities for our students to celebrate National Careers Week 2025. National Careers Week (NCW) is a one-week celebration of careers guidance and free resources in education across the UK. The aim is to provide a focus for careers guidance activity at an important stage in the academic calendar to help support young people to develop awareness and excitement about their future pathways. Please keep a look out for further information next week where your son or daughter can sign up to participate. We are looking forward to some very interesting guest speakers as well as hands on workshops, all designed to inspire our young people about the future.

We are grateful to the Norwich University of the Arts, The Department for Work and Pensions, The Institute of Cancer Research and the Construction Youth Trust amongst many supporters.

**Chaplain's message - Rev. van Kan**

*Our Bible verse for this week is 1 John 3:18, which speaks about showing love not in 'word and speech' alone, but in our actions. Authenticity is about being honest with ourselves and others. It means consistently living out our values, even when it's hard. Christ modelled perfect authenticity. He spoke the truth with love, acted with integrity, and never wavered from his purpose in life. Therefore, when we live authentically, we inspire people to trust us, deepen our relationships, and create an environment where others feel safe to be themselves.*

*I urge you this week to think of a time when someone's authenticity made a difference in your life—perhaps a friend who stood by their values or a person you may look up to whose honesty has helped you grow. Remember how their willingness to be authentic likely left a lasting impression on you. In the same manner, when we embrace our unique qualities and stay true to our faith, we shine as a light to those around us. May the Peace of Christ be with you all.*

As I will not be sharing another update until after half term, I hope you enjoy some time with your child(ren) during the break and we look forward to seeing students back at the Academy on Tuesday 25th February at 8.35am. We will however be sharing a survey with you in the next fortnight so look out for that email.

Wishing you a pleasant weekend.

Yours faithfully,



Mariella Ardron  
Principal

Upcoming and important dates

Thursday 13th February 2025 (evening) - Year 12 Progress Evening (virtual appointments)

Friday 14th February 2025 - last day before half term; 3.30pm finish

Monday 24th February 2025 - INSET day (no students to attend)

Tuesday 25th February 2025 - all students to return at normal time of 8.35am

Tuesday 25th February (until 10th March) 2025 - Year 13 mock exams start

Week commencing Monday 3rd March 2025 - National Careers Week - activities in the Academy

## Student Acceptable Use Policy (AUP)

This agreement is in place to ensure data integrity and personal responsibility when using ICT systems. The AUP is loaded on all computers and users will need to digitally sign the agreement upon login. The digital signatures are kept centrally by the IT service desk. In addition to this the AUP is also available in student planners.

Note: All Internet and network usage is automatically monitored.

1. I will only use the Academy's computers for Academy work and homework.
2. I will only edit or delete my own files and not look at, or change, other people's files without their permission.
3. I will keep my logins and passwords secret.
4. I will not bring files into the Academy without permission or upload inappropriate material to my workspace.
5. I will not attempt to visit Internet sites that I know to be banned by the Academy.
6. The use of social networking sites on Academy ICT equipment is not allowed unless specifically authorised by a member of staff as part of the planned curriculum.
7. I will only email people I know, or a responsible adult has approved.
8. The messages I send, or information I upload, will always be polite and sensible.
9. I will not open an attachment, or download a file, unless I know and trust the person who has sent it.
10. I will not give my home address, phone number, send a photograph or video, or give any other personal information that could be used to identify me, my family or my friends, unless a trusted adult has given permission. I will never arrange to meet someone I have only ever previously met on the Internet, unless my parent / carer has given me permission and I take a responsible adult with me.
11. If I see anything I am unhappy with or I receive a message I do not like, I will not respond to it but I will show a teacher / responsible adult.
12. I understand that the Academy will monitor how I use Academy-owned devices.
13. I understand all the points above and agree to abide by them. Failure to comply with this AUP will result in sanctions as detailed in the Behaviour Policy.