

Friday 30th January 2026

Dear parents and carers,

Thanks to all of you who attended last night's Progress Evening - it was a pretty full house and that was doubly reassuring as there was excellent information shared about students' GCSE options and the Options process which has just begun.

All year groups had special Holocaust Memorial assemblies this week, delivered by their Heads of Year. The theme was 'Bridging the Generations'. It is more important than ever that we honour the memory of the many millions murdered during the Second World War. At the weekend a small group of Sixth Formers and three staff members are travelling to Auschwitz and Birkeneau for a deeply poignant trip.

This has just been published by a charity called Parentkind and as you can see has been endorsed by the DfE and Ofsted. It is a really helpful guide and helps you as a parent navigate the difference between a concern and a complaint, including who you should speak to at the Academy. Our own Complaints procedure is on the website and clearly outlines our process and the different stages of how a complaint is resolved. Wherever possible schools resolve complaints informally and often are able to resolve an issue as a 'concern' more quickly than using the longer Complaints procedure.

### **Year 7 Progress evening**

Our Year 7 Progress Evening will be held on Thursday 12th February from 4.15 - 7.30pm. This is a great opportunity to meet with subject teachers; please ensure you have booked your appointments using the instructions emailed to you. Because we are trialling different start times to our Progress Evenings this year, staff will be working late to support this event and students will start their day a little later the next morning - Friday 13th February. We will open for breakfast at **9:00am**, and lessons will start with Period 2 at **9:30am**. No student can be on site before 9am. This is in place of an earlier finish on Thursday 12th February.

### **Diphtheria, Tetanus, Polio (teenage booster) and Meningitis ACWY immunisations - Year 9 students**

The Schools Immunisation Team will be visiting the Academy on Monday 23rd March to administer the DTP and Meningitis ACWY vaccinations. Year 9 parents/ carers must complete the online consent form via this [link](#). The team requires a documented "Yes" or "No" from all parents. For parents/ carers of Year 10 & above, if your child **missed these vaccinations in Year 9** and you would like them to receive them now, please complete the same form. For more details, please see the full information leaflet attached to this email.

### **Academy Production of Sister Act - tickets still available**

The Academy Production of 'Sister Act' is just around the corner on 5th and 6th February. Tickets are available for purchase both at Reception and on Parent Pay at a cost of £8 and £5 for concessions.

### **Library update**

I am delighted that we have finally appointed Ms Panayi as our Library Services assistant. Ms Panayi works from 10am - 4.20pm each day and has already reinvigorated our Library space. Mr. Flitcroft, our Director of Careers, has taken Library services under his wing. Ask your child next week about the relaunched after school Library clubs due to start just before half term.

### **Chaplain's message - from Anita**

*This week, we have been reflecting on the importance of honouring the past. In a world that often encourages young people to fit in, taking time to recognise and value our heritage can be deeply grounding. It reminds students that who they are, and where they come from, truly matters. I have been especially struck by how these unique backgrounds shape our shared life as an academy. Each student's story adds depth to the values we seek to live out together: charity, joy, forgiveness, servant leadership, and perseverance. I have been genuinely moved by the number of students from many different nationalities who have spent time in the Chapel, each bringing their own history and perspective. It has been a privilege to listen, to learn, and to see how individual pasts continue to enrich our academy community today.*

Have a great weekend. February already!

Yours faithfully,



Mariella Ardron  
Principal

### **Upcoming useful dates:**

- Thursday 5th and Friday 6th February - Academy Production
- Tuesday 10th February - Year 12 HE Launch evening
- Thursday 12th February - Year 7 Progress evening
- Monday 16th - Friday 20th February - Half-Term
- Monday 23rd February - INSET day (Academy closed to students)
- Tuesday 24th February - Academy re-opens to students and start of Year 13 Mock exams