

Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> December 2017

Dear Parents and Carers

The end of a long and very busy term is fast approaching. The last week has been difficult due to inclement weather. Please see the email below that was sent to all parents last week:

*'Information will be posted on the website and other forms of social media should we have a snow closure. Due to our catchment area being so vast, you as parents, need to decide whether it is safe for your child to travel and whether they will be able to get home.'*

Please note our duty of care sits within the academy site (unless on a school trip). If it is safe for the BOA site to be open and the majority of staff can get in to work, we will open. The decision to send a child to school sits solely with you as a parent. Obviously, such absences are coded as weather related.

I realise Tuesday morning was a challenge but only one member of staff was unable to get into school and about 20% of students were unable to travel.

If we experience more bad weather, or if there are local travel issues in your area, as a parent you make the decision. Sometimes, bad weather related absence cannot be helped and we understand. Having said that, I was delighted by the stoicism of staff and students.

### Assessments

Year 11 students have completed their mock exams and will receive their results in an envelope on the last day of term, replicating the exam results day in August. Year 10, 12 and 13 will receive a grade card by the end of term. A full report for Year 11 students will be sent home at the end of January.

### Year 11 - Deadline for Applicants to stay for Sixth Form

If you are a current Year 11 students and you want to stay at BOA, either on your current pathway or to go through aptitude for a new pathway, the deadline for this is Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> December. Please return the green slip that has been provided or inform Mr Newbold at [Christopher.Newbold@boa-academy.co.uk](mailto:Christopher.Newbold@boa-academy.co.uk).

### Performances/Trips and Work with Industry Partners

At BOA, we have an almost constant programme of performances. As I write this, we have seven school days left and in those seven days we have four Acting performances (Dr Faustus), a Dance show (Choreographic Springboard Platform), a Jazz event at 'RJJZ Café Jazz', two brass band performances in the Atrium and 17 Alice in Wonderland performances at The Old Rep.

All the events/visits are covered in my blog: <https://goo.gl/VAmEJG>.

A number of creative industry teachers work with a variety of departments. Job and work experience opportunities are displayed on the digital signage around the building.

Do not forget our Technical Theatre Arts students, Music Technology students and Broadcast students who facilitate these shows.

### **Uniform/Lanyards**

A reminder that **all** students must wear their lanyard and be in full uniform.

### **Change of Circumstances**

Please inform us if your circumstances change. If parents separate, we need the contact details of both parents unless one is prohibited from contact. It is really important to inform us if there is a court order denying access.

Please ensure all contact details are up to date.

### **Party Season**

Sometimes at parties there are incidents or fallouts between students. As parents, please resolve these issues as amicably as possible between yourselves. BOA is not responsible for students' behaviour at such events and will not be part of the resolution.

### **Social Media**

Social media, such as Twitter and Facebook, can be a wonderful way to engage quickly with parents to broadcast up to date activities and events.

However, it can be a destructive and difficult space which, when used without restraint or care, can cause significant distress and result in the perpetrator being referred to the police. As a school, we take any complaint seriously and have a formal policy and process to ensure that any issues are resolved quickly. If you have a grievance, please use this policy. Negative, abusive or disrespectful comments posted online will never be responded to by BOA in a public forum but action will be taken. This may result in a police caution and/or a student losing their place at BOA.

With the immediacy of social media, I would urge both parents and students to think before you tweet or post on any form of social media. Use the same respectful and thoughtful processes for engagement with others as you would in a face to face meeting. An apology the next day will not always eradicate the damage done to the parent/academy or student/academy relationship. The impact of a police caution impacts on a future career and will appear on an enhanced criminal record check. Please do not let that be your child or yourself.

### **Parent Trustee**

I am delighted to announce that Mr David Silber has been voted onto the BOA Board of Directors. His first meeting will be in March 2018.

### **Lift**

One of our lifts has been out of action for some time and there is no sign of an imminent repair. In the meantime, we urge students to use the stairs unless they are injured.

### **Fence**

Our fence, which is a bespoke piece of art work designed by BOA students, is taking longer than anticipated. I am sure it will be stunning when it is finally in place. The originality and uniqueness was initially causing the delay and now the weather has impacted the installation.

## BOA Digital

We have been approved to open BOA Digital and had anticipated opening in September 2018. Unfortunately, a number of purchases of land/old buildings by the DfE have fallen through. We are now planning for a 2020 opening.

## Dates

- Spring term is Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> January - Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> February (Monday 8<sup>th</sup> January and Friday 16<sup>th</sup> February are staff training days).
- Monday 26<sup>th</sup> February - Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> March is Aptitude Week. During this week, Year 10 will go on work experience, Year 11 will be at BOA for core week and Year 13 will be at BOA for a mock exam week. Year 12 will not be at BOA but will be set work to complete.
- Year 11 Parents' Evening is on Monday 12<sup>th</sup> February
- Year 10 Parents' Evening is on Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> March
- Year 12 Parents' Evening is on Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> March

## Attempt to Save Money

Schools across the country are trying to find ways to save money. We are currently faced with a frozen budget but higher costs for utilities, general expenditure and pensions. We have made the decision to reduce the number of hours BOA is open (NOT teaching time). We currently open from 6am until 8pm but from Monday 8<sup>th</sup> January we will open at 6.30am and close at 7pm (obviously we will be open later during show weeks).

## Staff Changes

### Leavers (December)

Simon Reid	Teacher of Computer Science
Keith Russell	Site Supervisor
Lee Williams	Site Supervisor

### New Starters (January)

Elizabeth Watson	Academy First Aider/Receptionist
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### Returners

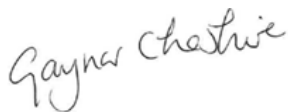
We look forward to welcoming back Emily Cooper (Teacher of English) and Hannah Wolstencroft (Teacher of Music) from maternity leave.

## End of Term

The academy finishes at 12.15pm next Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> December and we re-open to students on Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> January.

I hope you all have a Happy Christmas and a well deserved break. All the best for a healthy, happy and successful 2018 for you, your family and all BOA students and staff.

Yours sincerely



**Gaynor Cheshire**  
Principal