

14 December 2020

Dear Parents and Carers

### Principal's Newsletter

Firstly, I would like to take this opportunity to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and I hope you all have a well-deserved rest. Whereas it is difficult for us all to celebrate with our extended families over the holiday, I do hope you all have some quality time with your nearest and dearest – even if over Skype!

#### **Mahalia's successes at the MOBO Awards**

Congratulations to BOA Alumni Mahalia Burkmar for her successes at this year's MOBO Awards, winning *Best Female Act* and *Best R&B/Soul Act*. It was lovely to hear from Mahalia just after the awards ceremony, who told me she had experienced a 'really special couple of days.'

#### **Christmas Jumper Day**

Thank you to all students and members of staff who took part in the National Christmas Jumper day on Friday 11<sup>th</sup> December. We raised over £600 for the charities below and will send the monies ahead of the Christmas break:

- *Young Minds* is an organisation that raises awareness for mental health issues among young people in the UK. Their mission statement reads: "We want to see a world where every young person who is struggling feels able to reach out, and has people and services around them who can really help." Further information can be found at: <https://youngminds.org.uk>
- *Hampers for Heroes* is a not-for-profit, community interest company (C.I.C) ignited by COVID-19. Organisers send care packages to show gratitude to healthcare workers, carers and other frontline workers in need. Further information can be found at: <https://hampersforheroes.net>

#### **Movember Foundation**

Thank you to Mr De Salvo – Curriculum Lead for Modern Languages – who rallied members of staff to take part in Movember this year. As well as raising awareness for testicular cancer and men's mental health issues, Mr De Salvo raised over £700 for the Movember Foundation.

#### **INSET Day**

A reminder that Monday 4<sup>th</sup> January 2021 is an INSET day. Students will return to BOA on Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> January for their usual lessons. I look forward to welcoming our students back in the new year.

#### **Staff Leavers**

Mr Barton-Turner (Science)

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Mr Barton-Turner for his services to BOA. Mr Barton-Turner has decided to pursue a career in scientific research and hopes to work with the NHS in the new year.

#### **New Starters**

Miss Pilat (Science)

I would like to take this opportunity to welcome Miss Pilat to BOA, who will replace Mr Barton-Turner in the Science Department. Miss Pilat has previously worked at BOA and we all look forward to welcoming her back in the new year.

### **2020 Vision Showcase**

Mr Branch (Assistant Principal for Performing Arts) has written to you all with details of the 2020 Vision Showcases, which we will stream to you all on the following dates: Tuesday 15<sup>th</sup> December (Year 11 Showcase) and Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> December (Year 13). Again, a huge congratulations to all of our students – in front of and behind the camera/scenes – who contributed to the event. I look forward to watching the event later this week.

### **Donations**

'Tis the season... and if you would like to support BOA over the Christmas period, please remember our two initiatives: The Donation (Gift Aid Scheme) and TheGivingMachine. You can also make donations to the Old Rep Theatre through <https://www.crowdfunder.co.uk/theoldreptheatre>. We are especially grateful for any donations towards the shows and showcases, as we are not able to recover any costs this year through ticket sales. I have attached a form which outlines how you can donate. Thank you – in advance – for your support.

### **Lost Property**

If your child has left any belongings behind at BOA this term, the Site Team will ensure all lost property is available in the Fitness Suite (Floor 1) at break times and lunch times on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday of this week.

Until I write to you all again, I hope you all remain safe and well.

Yours truly,



**Alistair Chattaway**  
Principal