

27 November 2020

Dear Parents and Carers

### **Principal's Newsletter**

I am writing to you at the end of another busy week, as the country not only prepares to move out of lockdown but into a tougher 'tier' system. A few members of teaching staff were instructed by the UK Government to remain at home during the lockdown, and I look forward to welcoming all colleagues back on Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> December. Thank you to all students and parents for their patience and understanding during this time. In addition, thank you to colleagues who taught their classes via Microsoft Teams, whilst being 'beamed' into the classrooms.

#### **Year 11 and Year 13 Recognition of Excellence:**

I recently wrote to all students in Year 11 and Year 13 who had been nominated for a 'recognition of excellence'. I would also like to promote their achievements via this newsletter:

Congratulations to the following students in Year 11: Connor McKervy (Acting), Tessa Morris (Acting), Connor Wilcox (Art & Design), Erin Adlard (Art & Design), Erin Adlard (Citizenship Studies), Macy Maguire (Citizenship Studies), Erin Adlard (CMP), Harry Jackson (CMP), Anna Watkins (Dance), Max Coleman (Dance), Maizie Key (Dance), Sophie Wesson (Dance), Eva Ostler (English), Patricia Dimitrova (English), Jack Smyth (Geography), Tessa Morris (Geography), Erin Adlard (History), Erin Hamilton (History), Amie Cullen (Mathematics), May Parry (Mathematics), Elena Porfiri (Media Studies), Grace Thompson (Media Studies), Beverley Cooney (Modern Languages), Jacob Partali (Modern Languages), Mia Watkins (Music), Olivia Wilson (Music), Jenha Mall (Music), Taylor Bennett (Music), Finlay Hutt (Musical Theatre), Jessie Wilson (Musical Theatre), Erin Hamilton (Science), Patricia Dimitrova (Science), Elena Porfiri (VAD), Kai Mulrain-Gobbinsingh (VAD).

Congratulations to the following students in Year 13: Angus Bentley (Acting), Chenee Taylor (Acting), Zofia Doherty (Art & Design), Corey White (Broadcast), Elen Mawer (Broadcast), Aimee Greensill/Phoebe Greensill (Dance), Ruby Dunn (Dance), Charlotte Dolden (English), Isabel Sinclair (English), Ammar Ishaq (Games Design), Deyan Dimitrov (Games Design), Amber Seddon (Geography), August Goff (History), Orlando Wade (History), Manlin Gu (Mathematics), Maisie Taylor (Mathematics), Freya Richardson (Media Studies), Isabelle Pearson (Media Studies), Amina Keay (Music), Korben Lay (Music), Isabel Sinclair (Music Technology), Vishal Mahay (Music Technology), Ben Hayfield (Musical Theatre), Charlie Smart (Musical Theatre), Harry Hanslow (TTA), Kishon Roberts (TTA), Esther Grant (VAD), Harriet Lethbridge (VAD)

#### **Year 11 Mock Examinations:**

Thank you to all Year 11 students for their conduct on the first day of their mock examinations. Despite the restrictions we face due to mixing and moving between classrooms, behaviour was exemplary. Please also remember that, if students are absent, we will endeavour to arrange catch-up sessions for these examinations. Unfortunately, we cannot organise for students to sit their mock examinations from home.

#### **Open Day Events:**

I have had to postpone the open day event that was scheduled for Saturday 5<sup>th</sup> December – which we had originally planned to hold at the start of November – as it is likely that Birmingham will face 'Tier 3' restrictions when the nationwide lockdown is lifted on Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> December. Ahead of the Christmas break, I will arrange a time to visit all Year 11 students during their arts pathway lessons in

order to deliver the presentation on Post-16 education at BOA. If you have any questions in the meantime, please contact me on the email at the bottom of this letter.

**COVID-19:**

At the point of writing, there are 3 confirmed cases of COVID-19. There does not appear to be a link between the cases and - as a result - I do not have any concerns about a spread within the academy's community.

**Showcases and Shows:**

I am very much looking forward to the Year 13 Musical Theatre production of 'Little Shop of Horrors' on 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> December, closely followed by their production of 'Little Women' on 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> December. We were hoping to welcome small and socially-distanced audiences to each show but these arrangements may not be possible if Birmingham has to follow Tier 3 restrictions, which news reports seem to suggest. For now, I am waiting for the UK Government to make an official statement. If we are not able to invite audiences into the building, we will film / stream the productions. I will post an update asap.

**Congratulations:**

Congratulations to Daniel Barrie in Year 12 who released his debut single, 'Fool's Love' via iTunes, Spotify and Amazon Music. You can listen to the track here:

<https://open.spotify.com/track/291U4AhrAzzXD2tNf6CdMI?si=bgErtRILRcywrMCR2ewY3A>

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

Yours truly,



**Alistair Chattaway**  
**Principal**