

20 November 2020

Dear Parents and Carers

RE: Newsletter – Friday 20th November 2020

I am writing to you all at the end of another busy week. Firstly, I would like to take this opportunity to *sing the praises* of students at BOA, who – despite the restrictions we are currently facing – conduct themselves around the building and during lessons in an exemplary manner. Secondly, thank you to the parents and carers who regularly contact the Academy to pass on their words of support. It is incredibly encouraging and I am truly grateful.

Year 11 and Year 13 Recognition of Excellence:

Over the past few weeks, teachers in all subject areas have been nominating Year 11 and Year 13 students for a ‘recognition of excellence’ and have sent me a few words in support of these nominations. I have posted hand-written cards to all recipients and these will hopefully arrive very soon... Royal Mail permitting! I will mention all recipients in my next newsletter. For now, congratulations to all students for their exemplary work.

Parents’ Evenings via School Cloud:

Thank you to all parents and carers who took the time to email me with feedback following yesterday’s parents’ evening. Apart from one or two glitches, it appears that the online event was very successful. Parents and carers have commented on the efficiency of the system and I am pleased we have been able to facilitate some form of face-to-face interaction between members of staff and stakeholders.

Mental Health Support:

Thank you to Sophie O’Leary, Chloe Delpino and Kathryn Duffy in Year 12 who organised tutor-time resources earlier in the term in support of Mental Health Awareness Day. To further support the work of mental health charities in the UK, BOA will take part in the National Christmas Jumper Day on **Friday 11th December**. Students can wear (appropriate) Christmas jumpers to the Academy on this day (although all other aspects of our uniform must be observed) and can donate £1 to charity. We will have collection buckets on BOA reception and all money will be quarantined for 72 hours before being sorted and sent on to Young Minds UK (<https://youngminds.org.uk>). I will send additional details ahead of the event.

COVID-19:

At the point of writing, there are 4 confirmed cases of COVID-19 among students at BOA. The cases are not linked to one another, which means we do not need to worry about a potential spread within the Academy. To give you some assurances, we had a routine Health & Safety inspection last week and the inspector was very pleased with all COVID-related arrangements in place. We also spoke with Public Health England and Birmingham’s Contact Tracing team on Thursday 19th November, and they are also more than happy with the procedures we have in place when identifying students who may have been in close contact with confirmed cases.

Showcases and Shows:

Congratulations to students on the Year 11 Music Pathway, who filmed their ‘Break Out’ showcase this week. We will release the footage shortly. On a related matter, editing of the ‘2020 Vision’ Showcase is almost complete and I look forward to writing to you all with details.

We will also produce footage and a digital portfolio of work as a replacement for the Year 13 Broadcast and Year 13 Games Design New Media showcases, which was originally scheduled for next week.

Congratulations:

Congratulations to Freya Hancox (Year 11) and Raiaz Fisher (Year 12) for their involvement in the D-Day Juniors' charity single, 'Salute My Hero', which features Colin Thackery. The single can be downloaded from iTunes, with all proceeds going to the Vera Lynn Charity. You can also view the music video here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wSGYO097sU8>

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

Yours truly,



Alistair Chattaway
Principal