

Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> October 2020

Dear Parents and Carers

**RE: Newsletter –Friday 23<sup>rd</sup> October 2020**

We have finally reached the half-term break and I am writing to express my gratitude to you all for your support over the last 7 weeks. Despite the setbacks caused by COVID-19, we have not only managed to remain open to all year groups but we have also managed to deliver the curriculum alongside some exciting opportunities for students.

Firstly, whereas there is a lot of ‘talk’ about a ‘circuit breaker’ – where schools will be shut for a two-week half-term break – nothing has been announced at the time of writing. I will be in contact with you if there are any changes to current arrangements for this term. As a result, please note that students return on **Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> November** as Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> November is an INSET day at BOA.

**2020 Vision Showcase:**

Students in Year 11 and Year 13 have now filmed their submissions for the *2020 Vision* showcase. We will ensure that students who have been at home due to COVID-19 are given the chance to contribute ahead of the release date of the filmed showcase, which has tentatively been set as December 2020.

**Reports, Grade Cards and Parents’ Evenings:**

Year 10 and Year 12 Settling-In Reports will be issued w/c 2<sup>nd</sup> November. Year 11 and Year 13 Grade Cards will be issued w/c 9<sup>th</sup> November. It is now highly likely that the parents’ evenings for years 11 and 13 will be held over video conferencing and via phone calls. I will send details of this to you all during w/c 2<sup>nd</sup> November.

**Success stories:**

Following the news regarding Liam Coleman in Year 11 who placed 1<sup>st</sup> during a recent national online competition, the following students also entered the competitions organised by the West End star, Jodie Steele. Lena Bettles in Year 12 won the international singing competition and will also perform in the West End. Felicia Fincher in Year 12 also placed in the top three during the competitions, as well as being selected for an Elite Team alongside Millie Brown (Year 12) and Tillie Proffitt (Year 12). As part of the Elite Team, the aforementioned students filmed dance sequences that will be used in a West End production. Congratulations to Darcee Dutton in Year 10 who will be taking part in ‘Cinderella’ over the Christmas Period at the Five Star Theatre in Rugby.

**Principal’s Blog:**

I will update my blog later this month and will share details of the summer projects that students in years 10 and 12 completed ahead of their arrival at BOA. Subject leaders and their teams have nominated the best submissions and I will share these details with you all via my blog, as well as writing to students and their families to pass on my ‘congratulations’. The blog will be updated over the half-term break and can be found on BOA’s website.

**COVID-19 confirmed cases:**

As we reach the half-term break, we are monitoring 3 confirmed cases of COVID-19. Again, these cases are isolated and do not signal a spread within the Academy. We have asked a small group of students in Year 11 to isolate as a precaution due to close contact with a confirmed case, as well as asking a small group of Year 12 students to isolate as a precaution due to close contact with a

confirmed case. I will keep you updated over any developments but we are satisfied that we have identified all students who were in close contact with the confirmed cases.

**Next half term:**

There is much to look forward to in the run-up to Christmas, with showcases planned for the Year 11 Creative Media Production pathway and Year 13 Creative Digital Media Production pathways, as well as shows for the Year 11 Music pathway, the Year 11 Musical Theatre pathway and the Year 13 Musical Theatre pathway. I hope to be able to open these events to small audiences, if it is safe to do so, and I will write to you all with details of the arrangements as soon as possible.

It is also important to highlight the **Year 11 Mock Examinations**, which start on will Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> November and will end by Friday 4<sup>th</sup> December. We will send out a timetable during the w/c 2<sup>nd</sup> November 2020.

Until my next letter, I do hope you and your family members are good health and good spirits.

Yours truly



**Alistair Chattaway**  
Principal