

16th October 2020

Dear Parents and Carers

RE: Newsletter – Friday 16th October 2020

We are fast approaching the half term break and, following a busy 7 weeks at BOA, it will be a welcome rest for all teachers, students and families.

Open Evenings:

We held a number of open evenings this week. Prospective students and their parents booked places in order for us to manage small numbers in the building and to maintain a COVID-secure site. The open evenings were really successful and visitors spoke very positively about the facilities and a presentation. I mention this as I will ensure the presentation is delivered to all Year 11 students, particularly to those who are keen to remain at BOA for their Post-16 education. After the half-term break, we will distribute the necessary paperwork in order for students to inform us of their Post-16 plans. Please note: Year 11 students are able to ‘automatically transfer’ into Post-16 at BOA if they wish to remain on the same arts pathway course. Year 11 students who are interested in studying for a different arts pathway course must submit a new application and go through the aptitude assessments.

Tier 2 and Tier 3 Lockdown Guidance:

The Department for Education (DfE) and Birmingham City Council have been in touch to confirm schools are to remain fully open despite the Tier 2 lockdown that currently affects Birmingham and a few of the surrounding metropolitan borough areas. Currently, there is no clear guidance on how Tier 3 lockdowns will affect secondary education, other than that schools will remain open.

Covid-19 Confirmed Cases:

We are currently monitoring two confirmed cases of COVID-19 as the majority of the previously reported cases have completed their time in self-isolation and are now back at BOA. As always, we have been thorough in our responses to any new case in order to identify individuals who need to remain at home due to direct or close contact. Thank you to one and all for their support and understanding during this time.

Success stories:

Congratulations to Liam Coleman in Year 11 who entered a national online competition and auditioned in front of West End star, Jodie Steele. Liam won the competition and will be given the opportunity to perform a solo dance routine in a West End production, as well as attending dance workshops with Jodie Steele.

Parents’ Evenings:

I will publish details of parents’ evenings at the start of next half term. If we are not able to hold parents’ evenings on site, we will use our video conferencing facilities (or the good-old-fashioned telephone) in order to speak with parents and carers. Year 10 and Year 12 Settling-In Reports will be issued w/c 2nd November. Year 11 and Year 13 Grade Cards will be issued w/c 9th November.

And finally...

I will write to you all ahead of the half term, when I will feed back on the filming of the Year 11 and Year 13 showcases. I will also be able to report back on the first 'masterclasses' at BOA, which take place on Friday 16th and Saturday 17th October. As always, if you have any success stories to share, please contact me on the email address at the bottom of this letter.

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

Yours truly



Alistair Chattaway

Principal