

9th October 2020

Dear Parents and Carers

RE: Newsletter – Friday 9th October 2020

I am writing to you all at the end of another busy week at BOA. Firstly, thank you to all the parents and carers who have sent so many messages of support over the last few weeks! Your words of encouragement are incredibly reassuring, especially during such difficult times.

Open Evenings:

We will be holding our annual open evening events next week, Monday 12th to Thursday 15th October. To manage numbers in the building and then cleaning afterwards, these open evenings are ticketed events. Whereas the events next week are fully booked, there are still places available for our open day on Saturday 7th November. I'd be extremely grateful if you could promote the open day to friends and extended family members. We have added a lot of new content to the website and will launch a 'virtual tour' of the Academy on Friday 16th October.

2020 Vision Showcase:

Congratulations to Year 11, who filmed their segments for the *2020 Vision Showcase* on Thursday 8th October. Again, the standard of work was incredible and I am looking forward to sharing the filmed showcase with you later this term. We will – of course – endeavour to include contributions from students who were absent yesterday. Year 13 students are scheduled to film their contributions during the w/c 19th October.

Masterclasses at BOA:

Thank you for the fantastic response to the masterclasses on offer at BOA on Friday afternoons and Saturday mornings. There are still a few places available for the Year 13 Hip Hop Dance masterclass on Friday 16th October and for the Year 13 Motown: The Musical masterclass on Saturday 17th October.

I've received a number of requests for masterclasses for the pathways outside of the performing arts. I would like to assure you that we are planning to arrange masterclasses for all pathways throughout this academic year and I will share details with you all as soon as possible.

Year 10 and Year 12 Settling-In Reports:

Rather than hold settling-in evenings for Year 10 and Year 12 students, teachers at BOA are currently completing a short progress report. We will send these out to you at the beginning of November. I will also ensure that parents and carers have the opportunity to speak with subject teachers, should they have any questions or concerns.

Success stories:

Thank you to the parents and carers who have emailed me recently to share their children's success stories. I am delighted to inform you all of Nancy Ree's growing social media profile, who is a student on the Year 11 Music Pathway. During lockdown, Nancy Ree composed an original song – 'Give you the Moon' – which has had over 80k streams on SoundCloud. Other songs and cover versions have attracted over 200k streams. Congratulations!

And finally...

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all students for their tenacity during these difficult times. Their behaviour around the Academy site and during lessons is of a really high standard, and where I have had cause to speak with a few individuals about their conduct, they have been mature and responsible in response. We are fast approaching the half-term break, which will enable us all to rest and recuperate ahead of the new term.

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

Yours truly



Alistair Chattaway
Principal