

15 January 2021

Dear Parents and Carers

**RE: Letter from the Principal**

I hope this letter finds you all well. Firstly, thank you to all the parents and carers who have contacted the academy over the last fortnight to pass on their praise for the standard of online teaching taking place. I'd also like to thank my colleagues for their hard work, as well as the students at BOA for approaching the online lessons so diligently and maturely. It goes without saying that online learning is not a preferred form of education. Despite this – and to ensure we are able to provide effective online lessons to all learners – I have included a link below to a short survey that asks for constructive feedback:

1. What is working well for you?
2. Are you encountering any barriers to learning?

Thank you – in advance – for any comments that will help us refine our online teaching practice.

**Survey link:**

To provide a response to the questions above, please follow this link: <https://bit.ly/39CgTKP>

**Year 11 and Year 13 examinations / qualifications:**

There is still no definitive answer from Gavin Williamson (Secretary of State for Education) and Ofqual (The Office of Qualifications and Examinations Regulation) on how A' Levels, BTECs and GCSEs will be awarded this year. Gavin Williamson sent a letter to Ofqual this week regarding a consultation period (which begins today) which alludes to how centres will most likely produce grades based on assessments. At present, it is important that I do not speculate over any likely format for the centre-assessed grades and any externally-set assessments. I will write to you all as soon as I receive a definitive answer but, for now, students should continue with their online lessons in order to cover the content of qualifications. As we wait for confirmation from Gavin Williamson, students should also continue to complete classwork and any low-stakes, in-house assessments that have been planned as part of the online lessons.

**Open Evening Events:**

Due to the restrictions we have encountered as a result of nationwide lockdowns and Tier 3 / Tier 4 guidance on large public gatherings, we have not been able to hold our usual open week events. We have added a wealth of materials (including a virtual tour of the academy and promotion videos for subject areas) to our website, as well as maximising on social media campaigns to promote BOA to prospective students and their parents. Thank you to the parents and carers of current BOA students who have helped to promote the academy by passing on 'good word of mouth'. If you are aware of any students who are considering BOA for Year 10 entry or Year 12 entry, please direct them to the academy's website. We will also be hosting webinars on Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> January at 6pm for any prospective students and their parents/carers. Thank you for your support here.

**Good news stories:**

As always, if you have any good news stories to share, please contact me on the following email address: [principal@boa-academy.co.uk](mailto:principal@boa-academy.co.uk)

Until I write again, I wish you all the best and hope you all stay safe.

Yours truly,



**Alistair Chattaway**  
**Principal**

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