

11 February 2021

Dear Parents and Carers

**RE: Letter from the Principal**

I hope this letter finds you all well. As we head into a well-deserved half term break, I'd like to thank the students of BOA for their resilience over the last 6 weeks. I'd also like to thank my colleagues at BOA – teaching staff and support staff alike – for ensuring that education continues to move forward. I hope all members of the BOA community enjoy a relaxing half term break.

I am writing with some important information regarding the end of this half term and the start of next half term:

1. Please remember that **Friday 12<sup>th</sup> February** is an INSET day. Teaching staff will be at BOA, processing applications for places at the academy for September 2021. As a result, students will not be on site and teachers will not be delivering online sessions.
2. BOA is closed during half term week (**15<sup>th</sup> to 19<sup>th</sup> February**) and we are not currently opening on weekends.
3. As per our usual arrangements, BOA carries out the aptitude workshops the week following the February half term break (**this year, week commencing 22<sup>nd</sup> February**) for applicants wishing to join the academy in September 2021. As a result of the national lockdown currently in place, current BOA students will not be on site during w/c 22<sup>nd</sup> February. Instead, the following arrangements are in place:
  - **Year 10** will take part in a series of online workshops and activities as part of work experience week. Mr Penn (Vice Principal) sent details to all parents and carers earlier this week.
  - **Year 11** will take part in a series of 'drop-in' revision sessions, as well as completing a number of online assessments for their GCSE subjects.
  - **Year 12** will work independently from home on unit work for their BTEC qualification, as well as completing research and tasks in support of their A' Level option subjects (where applicable).
  - **Year 13** will take part in a series of 'drop-in' revision sessions, as well as completing a number of online assessments for their A' Level option subjects (where applicable). Teachers will also set work for the BTEC qualifications that students can complete from home.

**Week commencing 1<sup>st</sup> March 2021:**

At the point of writing, there is still no official word on the reopening of schools for onsite (or face-to-face) learning. Online learning sessions for all year groups will resume on **Monday 1<sup>st</sup> March 2021**. There has been much talk in the press regarding the reopening of schools for onsite education on Monday 8<sup>th</sup> March 2021, and we have been informed we will receive two weeks' notice. I will write to you as soon as possible, once we receive official word from the Department for Education.

**Consultation with Ofqual regarding qualifications for Summer 2021:**

Unfortunately, there is still no formal instruction from Ofqual (The Office of Qualifications and Examinations Regulation) on how qualifications for Year 11 and Year 13 students will be awarded in the summer. Again, as soon as I receive official guidance, I will write to you all.

**Good news stories:**

Students in Year 13 are writing (to me and/or to their teachers) to tell us about exciting offers from higher education institutions. Congratulations to all who have received offers. 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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