

17 September 2021

Dear Parents and Carers

RE: Principal's newsletter

Firstly, I am writing to welcome all new students and all returning students back to Birmingham Ormiston Academy, especially at the end of a busy but thoroughly enjoyable week. Students have returned in exceptionally good spirits and I have been pleased – as I have made my way around the site – to find all learners focused and dedicated to their studies.

Year 10 Showcase:

Congratulations to all new Year 10 students who demonstrated their exceptional talents during the Year 10 Showcase on Friday 10th September. I was also delighted to be able to welcome parents and carers to the event and to the building, and thank you to all who wrote to me to offer their praise for the students' performances.

Summer Projects:

Thank you to all students who submitted their summer projects over the last two weeks. I am really looking forward to viewing the creativity of all new learners at the Academy and to offering my praise for the submissions. We will be sure to feature the work in BOA's *Spotlight on Excellence* very soon.

Rescheduled Year 11 and Year 13 showcases:

My colleague, Mr Branch (Assistant Principal) wrote to you all at the end of last week with details of the rescheduled showcases from last term. I not only look forward to viewing the work of all students in Year 11 and Year 13, but also to meeting parents and carers at the events. Ahead of the showcases, I'd like to thank students on the Broadcast and Technical Theatre Arts pathway courses for their invaluable contributions and support. If you did not receive the information on how to book tickets for the events, please email info@boa-academy.co.uk

Communication with the Academy:

I have sent out a letter to inform parents and carers of how to make contact with members of staff at BOA. Parents, carers and students should always direct inquiries to the form tutor in the first instance, who will either respond to the inquiry or pass the communication on to the relevant person. The letter also contains email addresses and direct phone numbers you may find useful. At BOA, we always aim to respond to all inquiries within 48 hours (or two working days).

BOA Calendar:

We are currently updating the calendar on the Academy's website – which will contain all key dates for the forthcoming academic year – and this will 'go live' next week. If you require a physical version of the calendar, which will be in the form of a newsletter containing all key dates, please contact info@boa-academy.co.uk

BOA: Creative, Digital and Performing Arts:

This month, BOA: Stage and Screen Production opened to its first cohort of Year 12 students. In September 2022, BOA: Digital Technologies will open to its first cohort of students, starting with a Year 7 intake. As BOA Group will consist of three academies very soon, the original Birmingham Ormiston Academy on 1 Grosvenor Street has been renamed as BOA: Creative, Digital and Performing Arts. You will notice this on the updated logo and also on the Academy website.

Open Week at BOA: Creative, Digital and Performing Arts:

A reminder that our open week will take place from Monday 11th to Friday 15th October 2021. As well as tours of the academy taking place each morning, we will hold the Year 10 Open Evening on Tuesday 12th October and the Post-16 Open Evening on Thursday 14th October. We always encourage current Year 11 students to attend the Post-16 event, to gain all relevant information on Level 3 courses. We would also appreciate parents and carers passing on details of the open events to any prospective students and their families.

New courses at BOA: Creative, Digital and Performing Arts:

In September 2022, we hope to introduce two new courses. At Key Stage 4, we plan to offer the BTEC Level 2 TECH Award in Production Arts to students interested in lighting, sound, set construction, stage management, props and costume design. At Post-16, we plan to offer the BTEC National Level 3 Extended Diploma in Marketing to students interested in marketing principles, digital marketing, branding and brand activation, and marketing events. Information will 'go live' on the Academy's website over the next few weeks and inquiries should be directed to admissions@boa-academy.co.uk

Timetable and Curriculum Booklet:

At BOA: Creative, Digital and Performing Arts we operate a two-week timetable structure. The first two weeks of an academic year are always essential as we check for any room clashes or teacher clashes. I'm happy to report that there have not been any issues so far but please contact info@boa-academy.co.uk if your child spots a mistake or an issue with their rooming, etc.

At BOA: Creative, Digital and Performing Arts we always provide detailed curriculum overviews so that students, parents and carers are clear about the topics being covered and the important deadlines. The Curriculum Booklets will 'go live' on the Academy website next week and you will receive a notification.

COVID-19:

The Department for Education (DFE) and the NHS advised all schools and academies to carry out two rapid flow tests for all participating students when they returned to education in September. I am happy to report that we have carried this out and there are no issues or concerns so far. We have also handed out home testing kits to all participating students. A reminder that students should carry out two rapid flow tests per week to check for asymptomatic cases. If a student has any of the symptoms associated with COVID19, it is advisable that they carry out a rapid flow test and/or request a PCR test through the NHS if concerned about the symptoms. If a student has been in close contact with a positive case but has not been advised to remain at home, he/she/they should carry out daily rapid flow testing. Thank you, in advance, for your support with this.

Success stories:

Congratulations to Darcee Dutton in Year 11 (Musical Theatre Pathway) who has successfully auditioned for and will appear in 'Hairspray: The Musical' at Benn Hall later this month.

Congratulations to Amie Kenna in Year 12 (Musical Theatre Pathway) who has successfully auditioned for and will appear in 'Gangster Granny' at the Alexandra Theatre in October.

I have received a wealth of emails informing me of work experience opportunities that students were involved in during the summer break, from working with theatre production companies to assisting at location filming for upcoming television programmes. I'm always so impressed by the proactive nature of the students at BOA and congratulations to all on their summer experiences.

If you have any success stories to share, please email me on principal@boa-academy.co.uk.

I – like all of you – am looking forward to another successful year at BOA. Thank you for your support and best wishes so far, and I look forward to seeing you at the shows and events later this term.

Until I write again, I hope you all remain safe and well.

Yours truly,



Alistair Chattaway
Principal