

29th October 2021

Dear Parents and Carers

RE: Principal's newsletter – Friday 29th October

I hope my latest newsletter finds you all well and that you are all enjoying a relaxing half-term. Ahead of returning to BOA: Creative, Digital & Performing Arts Academy next week, I am writing with a few updates:

INSET Day: Monday 1st November

A reminder that we are holding an INSET day (or teacher training day) on Monday 1st November. The first day back for all students is Tuesday 2nd November.

BOA's 10 Year Anniversary:

Thank you to all parents, carers, students and alumni for wishing BOA a Happy 10 Year Anniversary. It does not seem that long ago since we opened the doors to our first cohort of learners and it is overwhelming to think of the number of students who have been through the Academy over the last decade. Thank you for your continued and valued support over the years.

Creative Digital Media Production and Visual Art & Design Showcase:

Congratulations to Year 11 and Year 13 students from Broadcast, Creative Media Production, Games Design and Visual Art & Design for a fantastic showcase on Wednesday 20th October at BOA. We were all incredibly impressed by the creativity on display and we really look forward to future showcases. Well done!

Year 11 Examinations Information Evening:

A reminder that we will be holding an information evening on Year 11 examinations on Thursday 4th November, from 6pm to 7pm in BOA Theatre. Mr Penn (Vice Principal) and Mr Pitt (Assistant Principal) will offer advice to parents and students on revision strategies in the run-up to the Year 11 mock examinations, as well as answering any questions regarding the summer examination series. The event is currently fully booked but please keep an eye on Ticket Source, should any places become available. We will share the presentation via the Academy's website from Friday 5th November onwards.

Year 11 and Year 13 Summer Examinations:

We have added an overview of the summer examinations for students in Year 11 and Year 13 to the parents' section of the Academy's website. Please note that these dates may be subject to change. The overview can be found in the 'Attachments' section at the bottom of the web page: [BOA | Imagine Everything - Parents \(boa-academy.co.uk\)](#)

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

Thank you to all staff and students who helped out at the open evenings during w/c 11th October. The events were incredibly successful and it was nice to welcome so many prospective students (and their families) to the building.

Free Radio Hits Live:

I am delighted to announce that BOA Group will be working in partnership with Free Radio this year on their *Free Radio Hits Live!* concert. The event will feature the following big-name artists: Rag 'n'

Bone Man; Anne-Marie; Tom Grennan; Mabel; KSI; Becky Hill; Dermot Kennedy; James Arthur. Students from BOA will be given the opportunity to perform at the event, and the Academy will be advertised on the main stage ahead of the headline performances. Thank you to all BOA students who gave up a day of their half-term break to help film the promotional video... a real success! *Free Radio Hits Live!* takes place on Saturday 20th November 2021.

16 to 19 Student Bursary:

Due to a case of prolonged absence in the Pastoral Care team, there has been a slight delay in processing all 16 to 19 Student Bursary applications. Thank you to Mr Pitt (Assistant Principal) for working through these applications. We will make payments very shortly to all families who have applied and met the criteria. In some cases, Mr Pitt will contact families for additional supporting information. Thank you for your patience and understanding.

BOA Book Award and Black History Month:

As we continue as an academy, a community of people, and members of a nation to promote equality for all, thank you to all students and staff members for engaging in meaningful and mature conversations as we celebrate Black History Month. As part of the *BOA Book Award* – which encourages the joy of reading by promoting new releases and modern-day classics – participating students and members of staff will read *The Hate U Give* by Angie Thomas this term.

COVID19:

I am pleased to report that, following a brief spike in confirmed cases of COVID19 a couple of weeks ago, the infection rate among BOA's cohort was in decline by the half-term break. Despite this, it is essential to ask all stakeholders to remain vigilant, especially as cases across the nation have been rising over the past few weeks. One of the main ways to a) detect possible cases, and b) prevent any potential spread is for students to continue with the lateral flow device tests, especially ahead of our return to the Academy in November. Participating students should continue with the twice-weekly testing, as well as monitoring their health for any of the known symptoms. Thank you, in advance, for your help with this.

Success stories:

- Congratulations to Nate Wallace (Year 10 Musical Theatre) who will be appearing in 'Cinderella' in Sutton Coldfield later this year, as well as starring as Seymour in 'Little Shop of Horrors' with Sutton Coldfield Musical Youth Theatre in May/June next year.
- Congratulations to Rudy Thomson (Year 10 Music) for his lead role in Round Midnight's virtual reality film called *Virtual Decisions*, which aims to educate young people over the dangers of weapons and knife crime: [Virtual Decisions - Round Midnight](#)
- Congratulations to Brodie Wright (Year 10 Music) who has been teaching herself piano, particularly over the lockdown periods, and has recently gained her Grade 3 examination with distinction.
- Congratulations to Eden Wedgbrow (Year 10 Musical Theatre) who has successfully auditioned for the part of Young Fiona in Burton Musical Theatre Company's production of 'Shrek', which will take place in February. Eden has also recently achieved Grade 8 in her Musical Theatre examination.
- Congratulations to Chloe McCormick (Year 12 Dance Pathway) who has been nominated for the International Theatre and Dance Award for Ballet, with the event taking place in April next year at Royal Northern College of Music in Manchester.
- Congratulations to Jasmine Khan-Springer (Year 10 Musical Theatre) who will appear in 'Cinderella' at the Core Theatre in Solihull.

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- Congratulations to Lauren Waldron (Year 13 Broadcast) who secured an exciting work experience placement on a new British movie during the last two weeks of October, which included an on-location film shoot in Clacton-on-Sea.
- Congratulations to Daniel Barrie (Year 13 Music) who released his latest single, 'Lay Me Down' in October. The music video was made in conjunction with students from the Year 13 Broadcast Pathway: <https://youtu.be/gxjscpdknTY>

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

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

Yours truly,



Alistair Chattaway
Principal