

29th September 2022

Dear Parents and Carers

Re: Principal's newsletter – 29th September 2022

I am so pleased to have welcomed all students to BOA earlier this month. I am delighted to report that our new members have settled well and I look forward to hearing of their many successes over the coming months.

I am writing to you to share some good news and also to provide you with a few important updates.

Year 11 and Year 13 Examination Results:

Last summer, students in Year 11 and Year 13 across the country sat the first set of public examinations in two years. As COVID19 continued to disrupt onsite learning for students across the nation, there were concerns that time spent in lockdown would hinder progress and outcomes for this generation of young people. For these reasons, I am delighted to report that students in both Year 11 and Year 13 at BOA have secured some of the best results in the academy's history. I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate students for their hard work and resilience, as well as thanking all parents for their support. I must also thank all members of staff at BOA for their dedication and determination. Please visit BOA's website for an overview of this year's fantastic results: <https://www.boa-academy.co.uk/examresults>

Year 10 Induction Showcase:

Congratulations to Year 10 students for their contributions to the Induction Showcase that took place on Friday 9th September at the Old Rep Theatre. We were all truly impressed by the talent on display and it was nice to say hello to the parents and carers in attendance. I look forward to watching how this talented year group continues to develop over the next two years.

Thank you also to those who gave donations to the charity collection for Reedham Children's Trust, on behalf of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II.

Year 11 Acting Showcase – *Mother Courage*:

Congratulations to students on the Year 11 Acting Pathway for their wonderful production of *Mother Courage*, which took place on Wednesday 14th September in BOA Theatre. Given the delay to the production, which was caused by the heatwave in July 2022, I was truly impressed by the students' ability to recall their lines and character motivations. Well done to all!

Key Dates:

We publish an overview of key performances and key dates on our website, under the Term Dates 2022/23 tab of the *Parent* section. You can download the latest version of the Key Dates document by scrolling down to the attachments section. I will notify you if and when we update the document: <https://www.boa-academy.co.uk/parents>

Open Week 2022:

The Academy's open week will take place from Monday 10th to Friday 14th October 2022. As well as the open mornings, from 9.30am to 10.45am, we hold our Year 10 Open Evening on Tuesday 11th October (5.30pm onward) and Year 12 Open Evening on Thursday 13th October (5.30pm

onwards). If you know of any prospective students looking to join the Academy in September 2023, please assist us by advertising the open week. At the same time, students in Year 11 should consider attending the Year 12 Open Evening, to find out information on Post-16 education at BOA. Please visit our website for more information:

<https://www.boa-academy.co.uk/admissions>

Rail Worker Strike – Wednesday 5th October:

Rail strikes have been planned for Saturday 1st October, Wednesday 5th October and Saturday 8th October. As one of the planned strikes will have an impact on a school day, students and their families should look for alternative travel arrangements on Wednesday 5th October. The Department for Education (DfE) has not instructed schools and academies to close nor revert to online learning. As a result, students should make every effort to attend the academy on Wednesday 5th October. That said, we do appreciate that a number of BOA students rely on rail transport for longer journeys. Families should decide whether it is safe or appropriate to travel on Wednesday 5th October. We will set work on Microsoft Teams for students who are not able to make it into the academy for genuine reasons.

West Midlands Metro Strike:

Please be aware that tram drivers and workers on this service have announced their plans to strike for up to 52 days in the run-up to the Christmas period and just after. Students who use this service must look for alternative travel arrangements. Dates have been published here:

<https://www.birminghammail.co.uk/black-country/west-midlands-metro-workers-strike-25126128>

Attendance:

The Department for Education (DfE) revised its guidance on attendance and absence monitoring in May 2022. Please be advised that an attendance record below 95% for an academic year is classed as 'unacceptable absence' and an attendance record below 90% is classed as 'persistent absence'. For an attendance record to fall below 95% for the academic year, a student will have been away from school for 10 days in total or more. Please assist the academy by ensuring your child attends regularly. On a related matter, the Department for Education (DfE) has announced that schools and students should anticipate a 'return to normality' for the examination series next summer. For this reason, it is imperative that students do not miss out on vital learning:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/exams-head-back-to-normality-in-2023>

Post-16 Bursary:

Thank you to all families who have submitted applications and supporting documents for the Post-16 bursary. We will begin to process these next week and aim to make the first payments ahead of the October half term break.

If you are concerned that we may not have received your application, we will send out acknowledgements by the end of next week (by Friday 7th October).

Principal's News:

At the end of each term, I update the Principal's news section of the academy's website. This contains an overview of all shows and showcases. Please visit this section by following this link:

<https://www.boa-academy.co.uk/aboutus/principals-news>


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Success stories:

I often use this newsletter to publish 'success stories', which provides a round-up of the extracurricular pursuits of our students. If you would like to share a success story, please email me at principal@boa-academy.co.uk

- Congratulations to Keisha Riley (Year 11 Musical Theatre pathway) who was selected as one of the Queen's Batonbearers as part of the Commonwealth Games 2022. Keisha was nominated by the Academy for her services to the local community.

Next time:

I will write to you all next week with details of how to contact your child's a) Head of Year, and b) Form Tutor, as well as publicising useful contact information for the Academy.

Until then, I hope you all remain safe and well.

Kind regards


**Alistair Chattaway****Principal****On behalf of BOA Creative, Digital & Performing Arts Academy**

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