

21<sup>st</sup> October 2022

Dear Parents and Carers

**Re: Principal's newsletter – 21<sup>st</sup> October 2022**

I hope this email finds you all well and I would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a restful half term break. Ahead of the end of this half term, I am writing to you all with some important updates.

**Summer Projects:**

Thank you to all students in Year 10 and Year 12 who submitted summer projects. Whereas these were the focus of the first few lessons for each new year group, teachers from each pathway area nominated some of the best work for special mention. I have written to the students and parents to thank them for the fantastic work that was submitted. These letters should be with you via Royal Mail during the course of next week.

**Year 11 Mock Examinations:**

Students in Year 11 have received an overview of the Year 11 mock examinations that are scheduled to take place at the end of next month, during w/c 21<sup>st</sup> November and w/c 28<sup>th</sup> November 2022. Mr Mitchell will also write to parents and carers of Year 11 ahead of the half term break with details of the mock examinations. Revision exercises can be found on Microsoft Teams, which will assist students in the lead-up to the examinations. I would like to take this opportunity to wish all students the very best during their assessments.

**Enrichment and Extracurricular Activities:**

Our programme of enrichment and extracurricular activities will begin just after the half term break. These activities typically take place on Friday afternoons, from 1.30pm to 2.30pm. We will provide students with termly overviews of the activities on offer. In addition, enrichment sessions also take place at this time, when students are able to access support from their subject teachers. Access to these sessions will be through arrangement.

**Shows and showcases:**

Shows and showcases will start in earnest from next half term onwards, starting with BOA's Christmas Show – *Beauty and the Beast* – at the Old Rep Theatre. There also showcases from the Music and Creative Media pathways. For details and dates of the all showcases, please visit the *Parents* section and you will find a *Key Dates* document in the attachments section.

**Rail Worker Strikes:**

There are further rail worker strikes planned to take place on the following days: Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup>, Saturday 5<sup>th</sup>, Monday 7<sup>th</sup> November. 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 Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> November and Monday 7<sup>th</sup> November. Please ensure you check the services your child uses and, if these have been affected, look for alternative travel arrangements. That said, we do appreciate that a number of BOA students rely on rail transport for much longer journeys. Families should decide whether it is safe or appropriate to travel. We will set work on Microsoft Teams for students who are not able to make it into the academy for genuine reasons.

### GCSE Retakes:

Students in Year 12 and Year 13 who are retaking GCSEs in English Language and/or Mathematics will receive a personalised timetable via email ahead of the half term break. The timetable will inform students of the time, date and location of their GCSE examination(s). The retakes in English Language and Mathematics are scheduled to take place on the following dates:

Date	Start	End	Length	Board	Component Title
Mon 31 Oct	09:00	10:45	01:45	AQA	English Language Paper 1
Tue 01 Nov	09:00	10:30	01:30	EDEXL	Mathematics Non- Calculator
Wed 02 Nov	09:00	10:45	01:45	AQA	English Language Paper 2
Thu 03 Nov	09:00	10:30	01:30	EDEXL	Mathematics Calculator
Mon 07 Nov	09:00	10:30	01:30	EDEXL	Mathematics Calculator

NB: You will notice from the above that two of the rail strikes coincide with the GCSE retakes in Mathematics. As these are nationally-set dates, BOA is not able to reorganise the dates of the examinations.

### Open Week 2022:

This year's open week was an incredible success, with over 950 families through the doors to speak with staff and students about the courses on offer at Key Stage 4 and Post 16. We estimate that we had anywhere between 3000 and 4000 visitors as a result. Thank you to all students who represented the Academy and for their contributions towards two very successful evenings.

### Success stories:


- Congratulations to Oscar Ralley (Year 11), Sionia Barchan (Year 11), Tom Bristol (Year 11), Luke Farron (Year 11), Gianni Saraceni-Gunner (Year 11) and Kheiri Isaac Osmani (Year 12) who worked with Steve Broster (Film Maker) and Mockingbird Film Productions on a short film project a few weeks ago. Thank you also to students from across the Year 11 Acting, Year 11 Musical Theatre and Year 12 Acting pathways who provided invaluable support as the background artists.
- Congratulations to all students who represented BOA on the main stage of the Can You Dance Super Convention in Liverpool on 15<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> October. Their performances were fantastic!
- Congratulations to Harley Pearson (Year 13 Musical Theatre) who will be playing Agatha Trunchbull in West Bromwich Youth Theatre's production of Matilda at the Dormston Mill Theatre in Sedgley in November (11<sup>th</sup> to 12<sup>th</sup>).
- Congratulations to Olivia Wilson (Year 13 Musical Theatre) who has joined the professional UK tour of the Rocky Horror Experience, as part of the ensemble and also as the understudy for Columbia. Olivia also passed her LAMDA Grade 8 Acting examination with Distinction and her BBO Intermediate Foundation Tap examination with distinction.
- Congratulations to Lois Lake (Year 10 Musical Theatre) who achieved her Duke of Edinburgh Bronze Award recently, which – among other things – included voluntary visits to a nursing home to provide entertainment for the residents.


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- Congratulations to Frankie Cullis-Crooke (Year 11 Visual Art & Design) who recently achieved a Grade 8 in GCSE Chinese – a qualification she has been studying in her own time out of school.

Until I write again, 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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