



February 2011 NEWSLETTER

Student Equipment

One skill that is vital for success in today's world is personal organization. This is a skill we take every opportunity to reinforce and develop in our students. However, one issue related to personal organization with a small minority of students is the lack of the correct equipment. A few students come to school without pens, rulers, pencils, etc which leads to the disruption of the start of the lesson. If parents could support the Academy by ensuring that their children have the correct equipment this would further support their learning.

Buildings Progress

The new internal walkway is virtually finished and this, along with several new classrooms, will be open and fully operational after February half-term.

Work then starts on enlarging the assembly hall, refurbishing the music room and building a recording studio. All building work will be completed by the end of June this year.

English Bacculaureate

The government recently announced a new certificate that may, in the future, become an important passport to Further or Higher Education. This new certificate is called the English Bacculaureate and is awarded to students who achieve at least a grade C in the following GCSE subjects: English, Maths, Double Science, History or Geography, and a Modern Foreign Language. The curriculum for students in Years 7, 8 and 9 will be modified accordingly to provide every student with the opportunity to achieve this qualification.

University Applications

Our Year 13 students are working hard towards achieving excellent examination grades and the majority of them have already been offered places at University for next year. One student has been offered a place at Oxford University, a couple of students are hoping for places at Cambridge University and eleven other have places at the top Russell Group Universities. .

Year 8 Options Evening

Year 8 students will shortly be selecting which option subjects they would like to study at GCSE, starting in Year 9. The options process is slightly different this year, as we have modified the curriculum in order to meet the requirements of the new English Bacculaureate certification. To explain the choice process and to clarify exactly what students will be studying over their next three Academy years there is an important meeting for all parents of Year 8 students on Monday 7th February at 7.00 p.m. We do hope that parents of Year 8 students will be able to attend (a letter has been sent home with all Year 8 students).

Ski Trip

Twenty-four students and staff will be spending half-term in Austria on the annual Ski trip over half-term.

Half-Term Revision

There will be revision sessions on offer during half-term for Year 10-13 students. All sessions will start promptly at 9.00 a.m and some will finish at 3.30 p.m. A revision timetable will be available to students by Wednesday 16th February.

PTFA

A big thank you to all members of the Parent Teacher and Friends Association (PTFA) who have worked extremely hard over the years to raise enough funds to further support our students' education. They have raised over £2,000 which they have donated to a number of subject areas to buy a range of educational items: PE – 2 table tennis tables, Art – a guillotine, Design and Technology – TV screens to showcase students work in the D+T area and a visualizer to enable students to access information at home through the VLE, Maths – whiteboards and pens, French – a French learning subscription for a year.

The PTFA are holding their AGM meeting on Tuesday 8th March. All parents are invited.

Student of the Week

Since September we have been giving a weekly award to a student for doing something above and beyond our usual high expectations. So far this term the following students have been winners of this award: Morgan Mullohand-Toy 7CK, Cordell Lake-Benjamin 11CK, Nathan Obayori 8AP, Lydia Stiller-Flowerdew 12CN, Piers Elliot 13CN, Savion Bepot 12CA, Ella Smith 9CB, David Walker 13CN, Faith Douglas-Sargeant 7SP, Tom Chandy 10TP, Oliver Murray 10AP, Reanna Lewis 9SP, Josh Capon 10CB, Chika Iwenofu 12, Hafsa Kumbay 12.

Important Dates:

Monday 7th February 2011: Year 8 Options Evening for parents.

Friday 18th February 2011: Staff training day – Academy closed to students

Monday 21st February – Friday 25th February 2011: Half-Term holiday

Monday 28th February 2011: All students return to the Academy

Tuesday 1st March 2011: Year 8 Parents Evening

Monday 14th – Friday 18th March 2011: Science Week

Wednesday 16th March 2011: Science Week Open Evening 5 p.m-8 p.m

Thursday 17th March 2011: Year 12 Parents Evening

Monday 11th April - Monday 25th April 2011 (inclusive): Easter holiday

Tuesday 26th April 2011: All students return to the Academy for the first day of the Summer Term

Friday 29th April 2011: Academy closed for Public Holiday (Royal Wedding)

Monday 2nd May 2011: Academy closed for Bank Holiday

Tuesday 3rd May 2011: All students return to the Academy.