

March 2017

Dear Parents/Carers

As we head towards the Easter break I wanted to take this opportunity to update you about events and projects that have occurred since I last wrote. The Academy has received significant funding following a successful bid for Conditions Improvement Funding and the following projects have been identified:

1. To update the Academy lighting from the old fashioned strip lights to the newer more energy efficient LED lights and further work on the heating system around all areas of the Academy – this work was deferred last year due to time constraints.
2. Refurbishment of English, maths and some science areas.
3. Sixth form social areas.
4. Re-roofing works continue to be on-going (a little like the Forth Road Bridge).

We are hoping that the projects will be completed over the summer break to minimise the disruption at the start of the new academic year.

This term has been extremely busy with a variety of events and activities. Years 10, 11, 12 and 13 have undertaken mock examinations, Year 11 have completed their progression meetings and we are working on the curriculum plan to accommodate this.

The following trips and visits have taken place this term; Year 8 Philosophy & Ethics students visited London, Year 8 History students visited Armley Mills, Year 11 Geography students visited The Veolia Recycling & Energy Recovery Facility in Leeds. The History department took a number of Year 12 & 13 students to London, A Level Science students attended a 'Particle Physics Masterclass' at the University of Manchester, Year 13 Psychology students have visited Disneyland Paris and Year 9 & 10 Textile students attended the Clothes Show at the NEC in Birmingham. In addition to this students involved with the Duke of Edinburgh award continue to venture out on practice expeditions in preparation for their assessed expeditions.

We have enjoyed a number of Parents' Evenings over the last term, all have been very positive with attendance at these events running in excess of 95%, which is a terrific response from parents.

The Academy is now gearing up for this summer's examinations. After school revision sessions for students in Years 11-13 are well underway and there is also a comprehensive Easter revision programme for Year 11 students. I would strongly recommend that where possible students attend.

Following on from the success of last year's production of "We Will Rock You" rehearsals are underway for the school production of "Grease" which is scheduled for July. Even though many staff are involved in after school revision sessions, all of the sporting activities, music, dance and homework clubs continue to run.

In terms of staff leaving the Academy at the end of the term, there is only one colleague leaving the Academy, Mrs Laura Hammill, Food Technology, to move to a new school. We wish her well for the future.

For your information, the final assembly for Year 11 students will take place on Thursday 25th May. Prior to this, the students will move onto an alternative timetable for a two week period (15th-26th May), during which they will attend normal lessons and bespoke revision booster sessions around their public examination subjects. All Year 11 students are required to be in school for this period until 26th May. From Monday 5th June students will be required to attend the Academy for examinations and the bespoke booster revision timetable that has been scheduled. This will be sent home in due course.

The Academy will close for the Easter break Friday 31st March and re-open on Tuesday 18th April 2017. Whatever your faith or denomination, I wish you all a good Easter break and let's hope the weather is a little kinder than of late.

With my very best wishes



AD Woodhouse
Principal