



15th July 2022

Dear Parent/ Carer

### **Year 6 Transition**

It has been a very busy week in the academy as we welcomed our future Year 7 students to the academy and held our transition evening for families. It was a pleasure to meet so many lovely students. Behaviour was impeccable and students showed great enthusiasm in the lessons they experienced. We are looking forward to getting to know them properly in September.

### **Raising Achievement Week**

Our Year 10s also had their Raising Achievement Week which was careers focused. Student experienced a wide range of activities including trips to colleges, mock interviews, CV writing, budgeting activities, university talks and a session with George Fouche, a motivational speaker.

### **Wimbledon Trip**

There have and continue to be many other events taking place in the final days of the term. Last weekend a small group of students were able to take part in a trip to Wimbledon. As if being there for women's finals day was not exciting enough, students were just a few feet away from Tom Cruise! Year 9 students are currently completing their Bronze Duke of Edinburgh's Expedition and all other students took part in Sports Day today.

### **Ofsted Visit**

In addition to the above, Ofsted also conducted their inspection of Denes on Tuesday 12th and Wednesday 13th July. We will receive the draft report in September and anticipate that it will be published later in the term.

### **Assessments**

As you will be aware, in the last half term we have facilitated a range of end of year assessments for students in years 7-10. These are vitally important for us to assess how much of the curriculum, both from this term and across the academic year, students have retained and can recall and apply. Knowing this helps us reframe or develop our curriculum for next year and identify those students who need extra support and intervention. We have been extremely impressed with the way in which all students have approached these assessments; specifically the ways in which the Year 10 have started revising and preparing the GCSE content, the ways in which the Year 9 conducted themselves with integrity (they have set the standard for all students at the academy) and the way in which the Year 7 and 8 students approached their first formal assessment in secondary school with resilience and building confidence. You should all be proud as parents for the manner in which they have conducted themselves.

### **Read-Aloud**

Next week sees the final week of Read-Aloud for this academic year. It has been an exciting and challenging first year. In our recent student survey, students reported that teachers read with enthusiasm throughout the year and though they may have not chosen the texts in the curriculum themselves, a large majority of our students see the



importance of reading, both for their academic and personal development. If you wish to see the texts that students have read, and will be reading next year, please refer to the academy website and click on the academic tab.

### **Hot Weather Warnings**

Current forecasts indicate that there will be a heat wave next week. Please be aware that we do not expect students to bring blazers to school nor to wear them at all next week unless they wish to do so. In accordance with DFE guidance please provide your child with a refillable bottle to enable them to access our water fountains to stay hydrated and ensure they wear protective sun cream. Students who wish to wear sun hats outside may do so (please ensure these do not have logos or slogans) and we will encourage children playing outdoors to stay in the shade as much as possible.

### **Attendance Rewards**

As we approach the end of term, we are busy organising our attendance rewards. Everyone with 100% attendance, as well as individuals who have significantly improved their attendance, will be invited to our VIP event and receive prizes in our celebration assemblies. Normal teaching continues right up to our last day and this is also when we confirm the final list of rewarded students. Please continue to do whatever you can to ensure your child is in the academy each and every day. *Be in to win!*

As ever, our [attendance guide](#) includes all relevant information regarding how we support excellent attendance. This can also be found on the attendance page of our [website](#).

### **Final Day of Term**

A reminder that we close for the summer holidays at 12.30pm on Thursday 21st July.

### **Summer Fete**

We are excited to hold our first Summer Fete on Saturday from 11.00am-2.30pm and hope to see you there. It is open to the whole community but we are afraid pets are not allowed. Click [here](#) to find out more

Have a wonderful weekend

Yours faithfully



Kate Williams  
Principal