

21<sup>st</sup> July 2010

Dear Parent/Carers

As we are coming to the end of a productive and extremely successful year for the Academy, I would like to take this opportunity to thank students for all their hard work and parents/carers for all their support over the past academic year. I would also like to acknowledge the hard work and dedication from the staff at the Academy. As I am sure you are already aware, we had our OFSTED monitoring visit in May. Only one judgement is made during a monitoring visit to a new Academy, which is on the level of progress made. I am proud to say that after two exhausting days of inspection we were found to have made 'Outstanding Progress' since becoming an Academy. This is a fantastic achievement.

### **Celebration of Achievement evenings**

I would like to thank all the students and parents/carers who attended the Celebration of Achievement Evenings. These events provide an ideal opportunity for rewarding the students for all their splendid achievements and the contributions they have made to the Academy and the local community. I am also grateful that the weather held out for all five evenings, enabling us to use the quad area.

### **End of the Summer Term (Friday 23rd July 2010)**

The Academy day will end for all students at 12.30pm. Students who are eligible for a free meal will be able to collect the meal at break time. Students who have confiscated items that they need to claim back should queue sensibly outside my office after registration.

### **Student Information Centre**

The Academy has made massive strides in improving attendance over the past year. Our efforts will continue next year and there will be an extra focus on student punctuality. I would like to remind all students and parents/carers that the Academy day starts at 8.20am and students should be on site before this time. If a student is absent then parents/carers must phone the Academy on each day the student is absent. For your convenience, I have attached a sheet which clearly states the term dates for next academic year. Please note these dates, as the Academy will not authorise any holidays taken during term time.

There are a number of important dates I need to bring to your attention:

**Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> September - Staff INSET day (no students on site)**

**Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> September - first day of term for Year 12 students**

**Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> September - first day of term for Year 7 students**

**Monday 6<sup>th</sup> September - first day of term for Years 8 to 11 and Year 13**

Please also note that the Academy will finish early in the summer term in July 2011. This is to facilitate the move from our current buildings into the new Academy building.

I have also attached a tutor list for September 2010. This will assist your son/daughter in finding the correct tutor base for his/her first day at the Academy next term. It will also prove to be useful to you in knowing the name of your son's/daughter's tutor, Co-ordinator and Head of Faculty.

## **Uniform**

Please find attached to this letter a copy of the uniform list. All parents/carers should be reminded that the Academy strictly enforces its uniform policy. To maintain high standards and to ensure consistency we aim to be as explicit as possible. However, should you be unclear about any of the uniform, please contact the Academy prior to purchasing an unsuitable item. Examples of issues that we have had to clarify with parents this academic year are ó no plimsolls, no trainers, no cardigans, no extreme hairstyles or hair colouring, no facial or tongue piercings and no jewellery other than a wrist watch and a maximum of one small stud (no stones) earring in each ear. I also need to reiterate that under no circumstances should any student bring a mobile phone onto the Academy site.

## **Cycling to the Academy**

As an Academy, we like to promote the health of our students and cycling is an excellent form of exercise. However, it has come to our attention that some students are not cycling safely on the local roads to and from the Academy. Please would all parents/carers reinforce the need for students to cycle responsibly at all times. As with all personal property belonging to staff and students, the Academy will not accept liability for any claim arising from theft, accidental loss or damage. Consequently, if students do bring their bikes into the Academy, they must also bring a suitable lock.

## **Examination Results**

A number of Year 10 students will have taken early GCSE examinations. Results will be available at the Academy on **Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> August 2010** from 10.00am until 1.00pm. Any student not picking up their results on that day will be able to obtain them from us once they return to the Academy on 6<sup>th</sup> September.

Our Year 11 students will also receive their examination results on **Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> August**. We are anticipating another spectacular set of results this summer, reflecting the 'Outstanding Progress' that the Academy is making. It has been a very productive and extremely successful year for the Academy. I am sure the next academic year will bring more success and we are certainly all looking forward to the completion of the £25 million new Academy build, which is on course for completion by July 2011.

I wish everyone a restful and safe summer break and look forward to working with you next academic year.

Yours faithfully

**T Askew (Ms)**  
**Principal**