



**May 2021**

Dear Parent/ Carer,

Another unusual half term comes to a close and yet again you will hear a familiar refrain from me: It has been incredibly positive, challenging and yes, we all now deserve a break.

It has been a particularly demanding half term for our Year 11 and 13 students who have been sitting assessments. I am really grateful to these students in particular for their hard work and conscientious approach to these assessments. I understand their concerns completely but believe that our process for marking, moderating, standardising and giving teacher assessed grades will be fair and rigorous. Our staff have worked incredibly hard to ensure that this is the case and I thank them for their hard work throughout this period. Full details of our TAG protocols are on our website.

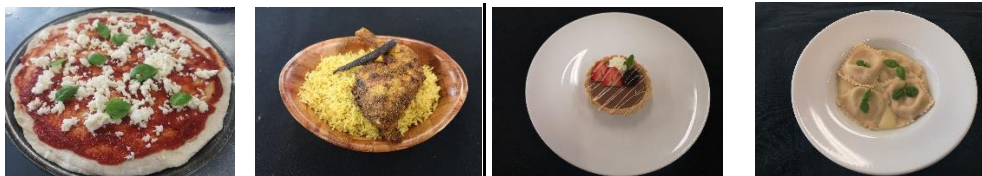
Unlike some schools we are keeping our examination year groups for a little longer and have rewards visits planned. These visits are unusual and generally not something we would do. We have planned them to thank the students for their hard work throughout lockdown and their assessments. It is also a lovely thing to be able to trust students in this way. I hope that they enjoy their final week with us and take special memories of a very special school with them as they leave.

It was simply wonderful to see performances in our academy again. This half term I have been fortunate enough to watch sensational Year 13 drama and dance performances. How our students have been able to rehearse, practise and perform during lockdown with all its restraints is just brilliant. I am convinced that the resilience that they are showing throughout this period will benefit them, although it may not always feel like it now.

We are slowly opening up aspects of our provision and I know that the teachers of practical subjects are delighted to be able to teach in workshops, kitchens, dance studios and theatres again. Rest assured we do everything with caution and safety as our number one concern. As I write this we haven't had a positive case this half term and I really hope that we have turned a corner in that respect. We will, of course, keep you informed of any change to our plans for next half term as the government's road map may allow us to open up even further. For now, I urge you to keep following the guidance and making sure that students complete their lateral flow testing.

The assembly and tutor time this week focused on events in the Middle East. Our academy has a personable and big family ethos and so I asked all to reflect on the human cost of the conflict. I have asked the academy to reflect on the suffering of the very many innocent civilians who have been made homeless, destitute and suffering the loss of loved ones. I urged students to reflect on our academy slogan 'one world in one school' and to see the positivity that can come from recognising and embracing our differences. I often say that the world is a better place because George Salter young people are in it and am convinced that many of our students will change the world for the better. On Friday's tutor time we discussed with students how they have the right to express themselves, have a voice and to protest but to do so properly and in a way that has impact. As always, thank you for your support.

## Catering



The food department are so happy to be able to offer practical lessons to KS3 again. All students from year 8 upwards now are able to take part in practical cookery lessons and we look forward to welcoming our year 7s into the kitchens over the next term. Lots has been different this year but the skill, engagement and most importantly enjoyment levels of our students are still very much the same. I have loved seeing the smiling faces of students covered in flour again!

## World Languages

MFL Poetry Competition 'Mother Tongue, Other Tongue' open to Yrs 7 to 11. We are delighted that the following entrants have made it into the regional competition:

Aviral Bhandari

Ashaas Kaur

Sebastian Pawlik

Sundar Pun

## Year 7

Well done to year 7 for adapting to the recent set changes and the movement in and around the art block. There has been very sensible and mature behaviour demonstrated. Let's hope it won't be long until you experience the whole academy! There has also been a huge uptake in the year group for joining Extra Curricular clubs and activities, which is fantastic to see, showing commitment to academy life.

## Year 9

### STEMfest

Over the past few months students have been attending the science led STEMclub after school. During this time, two teams were entered for the national OAT STEMfest competition which required students to research a chosen case study to do with the local area. These case studies included, but were not limited to homelessness, pollution, green energy and over consumption of food.

One group focussed on marine pollution and the effect plastic had on marine life and the other group focussed on the over consumption of food which led to homelessness. Both groups did some fantastic work. The year 9 group 'No more Omelas' (a reference to a popular J pop song from BTS) created an amazing video detailing how over consumption of food had led to an increase in homelessness in the Birmingham area. Due to their fantastic effort, the group was able to enter the OAT STEMfest national final. The group consisted of **Scarlett Barnes, Anisha Simak, Inder Pal** and **Wendy Ani-Denteh**.

The group presented their work over Microsoft teams to a panel of judges across the country. They also answered questions from the judges in which they explained how they actively tried to solve some of the issues they raised in their project, within the Birmingham area. The students represented the school and made us very proud – well done to them all.



## Post 16

This half term, the following students have been accepted on to an Academic Enrichment Programme at the University of Birmingham: Anisah Tasnim, Ismail Ajmal, Kulthoom Javaid, Nick Malek, Mac Porter-Deleon, Nijendra Bhandari and Nazia Yeasmin.

We have also had the following students attend Cambridge Masterclasses following successful applications:

Nazia Yeasmin, Mohammed Ashrafur Rahman and Habibah Begum for Chemistry  
Mirgan Ahmed - Medicine

All students in year 12 & 13 are well underway with their Duke of Edinburgh Certificate of Achievements and we look forward to the expeditions next half term.

Take care and stay safe



Adrian Price  
Principal