



19th July 2022

Dear Parent/ Carer,

First of all I would like to say a big thank you for your continued support over the course of what has been, yet another, most unusual academic year. Our community has continued to be severely affected by the virus with infection rates, at times, so much higher than the national. Despite this we are really proud of the fact that we are one of the very best attended academies in our Trust. Our overall attendance rates of 92% approx., whilst below our usual pre-pandemic 97%, is high compared to the national figures. Your support in making sure that our children have high expectations of attendance and punctuality is very much appreciated.

It has been an incredibly demanding academic year but we really do have much to feel positive about. This year we launched our Salter Scholar programme and I am delighted that so many young people have had the opportunity to participate in guest lectures, visits, leadership opportunities and much more. This term our students have taken part in activities as varied as the PGL residential, the musical Annie, the One World One School One Festival, Yr10 geography visits to Birmingham and the North Wales coast and Brindley Place, Medical Mavericks workshops and Year 7 English visit to Stratford Upon Avon to name but a few. It is absolutely phenomenal that roughly 75% of our students, including those in 6th Form, will graduate with their platinum award having completed seven of the ten components. We are the only academy I know where all Year 7 students are expected to complete the Sports Leaders Award. It was always a big ask to launch such an ambitious project in the post pandemic world of student and staff absences but, quite frankly, wow- what an impact!

We have always tried to place safety as our number one priority and to make sure that no child was disadvantaged. We have done our very best to ensure these two priorities are a reality. Whilst I am sure that we have made mistakes it is not for the lack of effort. I have launched a consultation on our Recovery Premium spend (the link is on Facebook and has been sent out previously) and your responses will craft our planning for next year. Once again I applaud all my colleagues in our fabulous academy for their hard work and dedication in still making our moral purpose a reality in such demanding times. I have seen every week the sacrifices and effort that all our staff have made and it is only right that I thank them publicly in this address. Our staff deserve a well-earned rest and I hope that they can find some peace this summer.

I understand from parents' evening comments that it is not always easy to contact a member of staff at the academy. There are contact names and email addresses on the website and also a general email address for queries. If you are not successful in getting a response to a phone call please do email if at all possible. I really do want to ensure that we improve all channels of communication going forwards.

This year I hope for a more straightforward return to school in September compared to the mass testing arrangements of 12 months ago. All students will return to school on Wednesday 7th September. Students will return at the following times:

Years 7 - 11

Year 7 students should arrive at the academy by 8.38am on Wednesday 7th September.



Students in Years 8 -11 should arrive at 9.50am.

Years 12 and 13

New Year 12 students will be expected to arrive at school at normal time (by 8.38am latest) via the Post 16 entrance on Dudley Street.

Year 13 students should arrive at the academy at 1.20pm for the afternoon only. Again, via the Post 16 entrance on Dudley Street.

Our term dates for 2022/23 are:

Autumn Term 2022

Term starts: Wednesday 7th September 2022

Half term: Monday 24th October 2022 – Friday 28th October 2022

Term ends: Friday 16th December 2022

Training days: Monday 5th September 2022, Tuesday 6th September 2022, Friday 25th November 2022

Spring Term 2023

Term starts: Wednesday 4th January 2023

Half term: Monday 20th February 2023 – Friday 24th February 2023

Term ends: Friday 31st March 2023

Training days: Tuesday 3rd January 2023

Summer Term 2023

Term starts: Monday 17th April 2023

Half term: Monday 29th May 2023 – Friday 2nd June 2023

Term ends: Tuesday 25th July 2023 (Friday 21st July for students)

Training days: Monday 24th July 2023 and Tuesday 25th July 2023

Can I please remind parents that our uniform is really important to us here at George Salter Academy? We are very proud of our students and how they wear their uniform. The requirements have not changed and are available on our website. Do not be tricked into buying black trainers that are not black polishable leather shoes or allowing piercings or an unnatural hair day in the last week(s) of the holidays. In the heat of the final few weeks the length of skirts has increasingly become an issue, please do only purchase knee length skirts of the most appropriate material. Students may continue to wear a PE kit on PE days but it has to be the GSA PE kit. We will continue to ask tutors to take hoodies and award the relevant sanctions for non-compliance. Can I also please remind you that all students are expected to bring a bag to school every day and have their planner, pens, pencil and rule in a pencil case with them? It is absolutely crucial; that we get these basics right.



This year, following a period of staffing stability, we are seeing some departures. Amongst those leaving, if I may, please allow me to thank publicly two of our senior leaders, Mr Foskett and Mrs Halford, to whom I say thank you for your professionalism, high standards, sound advice and words of comfort when the going has been a bit tricky.

I'd also like to thank one of the longest serving members of staff, Mrs Brown for all her hard work over the years to encourage a love of language learning – you move on to your promoted post with our very best wishes. To all those who are leaving I say a huge thank you for all the hard work and commitment that you have shown the academy during your time with us. We are very much the richer for you having been with us.

Staff Leaving:

Mr Foskett - Vice Principal
Mrs Halford – Senior Assistant Principal
Mrs Bains – Head of ICT
Mrs Brown – Head of MFL
Mrs Butt – Head of Business Studies
Mrs Mandair – Head of Science
Mrs Willis – Interim Head of Maths
Mrs Bannister – Medical Officer
Mrs Cook – LSA
Mrs Cutler – Art
Mr Dunn – Science
Mr Khan – Maths
Miss Mullard – Drama
Mrs Vendrell – MFL

New Staff (September):

Mrs Chorley – Assistant Principal Implementation
Dr Lee – Assistant Principal Intent
Mr Uppal – Assistant Principal Pupil Premium and Assessment
Mrs Mander – Associate Assistant Principal KS4 Core
Mr Harrison – English
Miss Homer – English
Miss Lochan – MFL
Miss Majszak – RE
Mrs Oedra – Business Studies
Mrs Ryabchenkov – MFL
Mr Singh – Maths
Mr Ssenfuma – Maths

Our academy has continued to be an overwhelmingly positive place to work and learn. The challenges of the post pandemic world including mental wellbeing, gaps in learning, rebuilding relationships, accepting the routine of school after a break and digital safeguarding are huge. We will endeavour to do our very best to ensure that young people are safe and achieve beyond their potential.

Thank you for all your support which is not at all taken for granted.

Please stay safe over the summer, enjoy the break and I look forward to seeing you all again in the new academic year!

Adrian Price
Principal



Messages from the Progress Leaders:

Year 7 – Miss Whitworth

Year 7 have had a fantastic year! Year 7 had the most students in the Academy taking part in the Big Sleep Out at the beginning of the year, which raised over £1500 for St Basils charity, they have been on numerous curriculum visits including Bletchley Park, Stratford Upon Avon and a PE residential to PGL and have shown great enthusiasm participating in enrichment and interhouse competitions. The year 7 student leadership team have shown great promise and have organised the Christmas Disco, an Apprentice Project and an Oracy competition. Eddie Juimeni has been elected as our Regional Student Voice Representative for OAT this year and has now gone on to be elected as Assistant Chair for the OAT National Student Leadership Team, which is an outstanding achievement. Year 7 have also been a part of 3 guest lectures as part of the Salter Scholar programme and have had access to a wealth of opportunities to develop their character surrounding this. I am really looking forward to seeing year 7 develop through their George Salter journey as they progress into the next academic year and wish all of year 7 a safe and fabulous summer.

Year 8 – Mr Preware

We have had a challenging but fruitful year. We started, struggling a little, as did most of the Academy, to return to routines. We've been away on PGL and learned loads of basics around first aid and emergency care, as well as looked at a number of pertinent issues ranging from Vaping to Harmful Sexual behaviour, in PSHE. Some of us have gained level 1 LIBF certification, we have the founding members of the Year 8 Environmental Protection group and we have produced a large number of Salter Scholar graduates.

We are all older and wiser, and are looking forward to the challenges, failures and successes of next year, and ultimately, to growth as individuals and as a community.

Year 9 - Mr Bishton

Year 9 have developed and matured significantly as this year has progressed. They have demonstrated an excellent attitude throughout their Duke of Edinburgh training days and their countryside walks. We are really excited to see how this year group develop and flourish as they progress into the start of Key-Stage 4 and their options.

Year 10 - Mrs Field

Over the year we have had three excellent 'One World in One School' power point presentations from the following students:

Nuradin Abdullahi - Somalia

Shujahat Payamon and Refa Amanyar - Afghanistan

Wendy Ani-Denteh - Ghana

All three were really interesting and discussed elements relating to their countries such as culture, food and language.



In addition to this there have been three students who took part in the Aimhigher Mentoring programme with Birmingham University and received awards for their fantastic commitment to the programme. They were awarded a certificate and £10 Amazon voucher each:

Scarlett Barnes

Jasleen Gill

Adam Alkash

Finally, we had Brooke Penney, Wendy Ani Denteh and Scarlett Barnes represent the Academy at the Premier League Change Makers #breakthebias event at Villa Park which was all to do with women in sport and leadership roles. They were chosen after attending an event at West Bromwich Albion over the half term holiday.