



Dear Parent/ Carer,

October 2022

The nights are drawing in and, yet again, I seem to be leaving for and returning from work in the dark. The light of George Salter still shines bright though.

The brightest moment of my week came when visiting tutor groups this week. Every classroom in Years 7, 10 and 11 that I visited were taking part in our weekly reading aloud session. During this time all students are read the same book by their tutors and meaningful conversations then follow. In the year 7 tutor group I visited we explored how the main character may present as what is perceived to be 'normal' but has a particular need which makes life more demanding. The students' enthusiasm for the text was simply sensational. We have deliberately chosen the texts that students read to reinforce our 'One World in One School' ethos; the current year 7 book exploration of protected characteristics and disability is relevant to my assembly the first week back on the theme of dyslexia.

We have for some time shared our belief as professionals that etymology is cultural capital: making sure that our students access, understand and use a wide range of vocabulary is extremely important to us. We have a POW-WOW word of the week that students record, define and are encouraged to use weekly. We have also asked all departments to ensure that students are recording the highly specialist Tier 3 words they need in the curriculum in the back of their books as 'never heard before' words. Our efforts are paying off as we see that students are getting word rich in their books and student talk in lessons. Assessments last year showed that Year 9 students were 10% approx. better than the national average for narrative and non-narrative comprehension.

Please talk with your child about what they are reading in tutor time, in lessons, as homework and for pleasure. This half term I hope to finish Fairy Tale by my favourite author at the moment: Stephen King. If your child does, like me, and reads a book ask them to write a book review on a postcard and to send it to me at school. For every review received I promise a nice reward!

There will be a big change next ½ term as we go back to asking all students to wear the academy uniform every day. The COVID reason for wearing PE kits is no longer relevant, we worry about cold and rainy days spent in PE kits all day and, quite frankly, the students look a lot smarter in their uniform. Any student who fails to bring their PE kit with them on the day of PE / Dance will be issued with a department detention due to them not having the correct equipment. Any regular non-provision of kit will result in an escalation of this sanction. This change in policy will come into place immediately after half term on Monday 31st October. Thank you in advance for supporting this return to academy uniform every day.

Finally, we are really eager for all parents to engage with the academy. You may be unaware that we have translated the academy website into many languages. All you have to do is click the flag or language at the bottom of the website page. We are also doing our very best to share live information to keep up to date with your child's progress and have sent out, once again, username and passwords for Classcharts. As many of you know, this really is a brilliant tool to keep up to date with rewards and track how your child is getting on. Please do make sure that you are using it.

As always thank you for your continued support; it is much appreciated.

Adrian Price  
Principal