



15<sup>th</sup> December 2022

Dear parent/carer,

Thank you for your support throughout this term; it is not taken for granted and very much appreciated.

During the second half of the term we witnessed the final stage in our return to normal academy protocols as we asked all students to wear the academy uniform every day, including those days when they have PE or Dance. Of course, we will be managing the after effects of a pandemic for a long term. You may recall that we consulted with you, as parents/carers, about our recovery premium spend and have done the same with staff in order to make sure that we provide the very best curriculum, provision and care. We know that children missed the routine of school and are investing training time, resources and links with external partners to ensure we are proactive in championing our children's needs.

Last time I wrote, I mentioned the many fabulous strategies we are putting in place to encourage a love of reading for all students. I have to say sorry to the Year 7 students who should have all received a book of their choice as a Christmas present; the order is delayed at the suppliers but is being processed and will be with us in the New Year. Well done, by the way, to Year 7 students who are excelling at the Bedrock vocabulary building project!

As you know enrichment is hugely important to us here at GSA. This term has seen the relaunch of a most impressive array of clubs and visits. Sports fixtures have resumed, students have been to Westminster, the national Justice Museum and, this week in the cold, Brindley Place. I am in absolute awe of the 25 students and five staff who took part in the St. Basils Big Sleepout which, as I have said previously, is so very, very hard and such an incredible event. Our thoughts are most definitely with those without shelter this winter.

On the theme of social action we launched our WeWiLL project this term: Year 9 students have participated in a day visit to Sandwell Valley where they litter picked, looked after animals and a whole host of other worthwhile community actions. This is part of a bigger project which also saw our academy site mapped for geocaching, for those of you that do not know what that is, think of a giant orienteering course in school. Not only have our students enjoyed completing the course but many have acted as ambassadors and led visits for local feeder primaries. Well done Miss Ullah and Mr Hardwick for organising this fabulous project!

This term all staff have participated in AllSorts LGBT+ training. A key priority for us this year is expanding the theme of inclusivity across all aspects of the academy. We have a slogan of 'one world in one school' and it is our mission to make this an everyday reality for our students. As you know, we address the theme of healthy relationships through our weekly structured PSHE programme, guest speakers and tutor time activities but we recognise that there is always more that we can do. In the New Year over twenty staff will be trained as AllSorts ambassadors.

We do recognise that Christmas is not always an 'easy time of year' for many. We have, once again, distributed



winter food hampers and will be here for support if needed. This year as an academy, we will also reflect on the members of our community that we have lost, they will always be in our thoughts.

Our term will end, as previously communicated, on Friday 16th December. Please remember that Tuesday 3rd January is a teacher training day and so we open our gates for all students in the New Year on Wednesday 4th January.

I do wish you all the very best for the winter break and look forward to seeing you again in January.

Yours sincerely,

Mr A Price  
Principal