



Principal's Newsletter
Issue 11 - January 2019

Dear Parent/Carer

Welcome to the second autumn term Principal's newsletter for parents and carers. I hope you all had a great and relaxing Christmas and have had a great start to the new year. This newsletter will provide an overview of the key events from our last very busy half term and also some detail about what is to come this term.

Children in Need October 2018

Children in Need was a full week of fund-raising led almost entirely by our fantastic student leaders resulting in us raising £2040.52, a huge record for the Academy. Students collected money for non-uniform, sold fair trade hot chocolate at break times, allowed younger students to pelt them with squirty cream pies and, of course, voted in droves to select the teachers that would be gunged in our annual ritual. Thanks to Mr Broomhead, Mrs Owen, Mr Player and Mr Conroy who were good sports in this! A special mention must go to Thomas Marshall in Year 13 who singlehandedly raised £258 by swimming 80 lengths of Water Meadows swimming pool. Well done to all involved.

Remembrance November 2018

Our whole Academy Remembrance Service took place on 9th November in a special moment commemorating 100 years since the very first armistice to mark the end of the First World War that took place on 11th November 1918. The service was supported by a week of reflection and poppy planting at the front of the Academy building was a poignant reminder of the importance of our values in remembering our past. I'm sure you will have seen the display at the front of the building which was all prepared and produced in-house by our site team, our chaplain, Mr Needham and the technology team who made the very moving soldier silhouettes.

Christmas Fayre November 2018

We also held our annual Christmas Fayre which attracted 39 stall holders, the majority of which were our own students running their own enterprising activities. It was a lovely evening with our choir performing hymns and even Santa paying a visit. Thank you to all who attended and supported the event.

Year 11 Preparations

In November we held a Year 11 Information Evening to inform students and parents about preparations and support in place for the GCSE examinations next summer and to kick start the final run-in to making decisions about what to do after Year 11. To further support this, we also held a Careers Fayre, the first of its kind at the Academy where over 30 providers and representatives from business and industry came to exhibit at the Academy and discuss options and opportunities with parents and students of all ages. Mr Vallance and Mr James then ran a Year 11 Revision Day where the whole year groups received advice and tips about how to organise their revision. Mock exams for Year 11 and 13 will take place this month and I would like to wish all students the best of luck.

Rewards Event

I am pleased to report that our second reward event took place on 19th December. Feedback was taken on board to improve the day and again, those students that met the criteria related to attendance, punctuality and behaviour were allowed a treat for one lesson during the day. We intend to continue to run the event on a half termly basis. As we return to the new year we continue to strive for outstanding attendance at the academy. The inter school competition continues to bring out the competitive streak in students and staff; often resulting in one school taking the weekly trophy by a small margin over another. Although our overall academy attendance dipped slightly at the end of last term; we are confident that we can see an improvement in 2019 and make it our best year yet. As the cold weather continues, we would like, and urge, all students to attend school wherever reasonable and possible to avoid missing learning and missing out on the opportunities that we can provide in our aim to support all students to be the best they can be. If you



have any worries about attendance please contact the academy in the usual way and we will do all we can to help support you and your child. Year 11 students are going to be doing their mock exams and we want to encourage them to be resilient, stay well and healthy and enjoy their learning in the academy.

Grease

During the last week of term we also ran a Community Christmas Event where older members of the community were served a tea by our CCF students and were then treated to a matinee performance of Grease which was also attended by students from our linked primary schools. The 120 strong cast and crew from Grease then went on to perform to packed crowds at their three evening shows which was a superb production, hugely entertaining and showcasing some of our remarkable talent.

Awards Evening

I must also mention our excellent Awards Evening, that took place on 18th December. It was a very professional event and, as always, it was jammed packed with inspirational stories about our great young people. Thank you to everyone who supported the event – it was a fantastic way to end the term.

Founders' Day

Thankfully this half term is set to be a little quieter with focus being in the classroom and in the exam hall. However, we do have a couple of events coming up worth mentioning. Firstly, our annual Founders' Day for Year 7 students will take place this week. This is where our Year 7 students meet representatives of our Founders (the Samworth Family and the Diocese of Nottingham and Southwell) to learn about why they set up the Academy and what the vision for the school is.

Year 8 Guided Choices Evening – 28th February

The Year 8 Guided Choices Evening is an event that allows parents to find how the guided choices pathway will be organised, including key dates. The evening will include an opportunity to speak to subject specialists about the finer details of Key Stage 4 courses. We look forward to welcoming Year 8 parents and helping students/parents to make their choices.

SNMAT

As per previous newsletters, I am pleased to announce that we formally joined the Southwell and Nottingham Multi-Academy Trust (SNMAT) on 1st December 2018. One of the key reasons for us joining SNMAT is that the ethos of their trust closely matches ours. We firmly believe that by working with the other schools in the trust, the Academy will be able to continue to grow and improve the quality of education we provide, as well as make a distinctive contribution to school improvement both within the MAT and beyond. The Academy will continue to retain its own unique ethos and identity and its individual qualities and strengths, keeping children at the heart of all our decision making. We will maintain our own individual identity including uniform and logos. If you would like to read more about the SNMAT please visit their website <http://snmat.org.uk>.

Key dates this half term

7 th Jan – 1 st Feb	Mock Exams for Years 11 and 13
15 th January	Founders' Day – Year 7 event
5 th February	Year 11 Parents' Evening
13 th February	Year 13 Parents' Evening
18 th -22 nd February	Spring Half Term
28 th February	Year 8 Guided Choices Evening
5 th March	Year 8 Parents' Evening
8 th – 22 nd April	Easter Holidays

Please refer to our calendar on the website for further dates.

And finally...



Thought for the half term – from Alex our Chaplain

In his New Year's address, the Arch Bishop of Canterbury, Justin Welby Spoke of living together as a community, and choosing to prioritise others so that those communities will function as they should. Over this last year in our nation we have witnessed many divisions, the gap between the rich and those who struggle financially is widening, there is division in our politics that will shape our nation for the foreseeable future and, even closer to home, none of us are perfect and we sometimes allow disagreement to divide us. However, hope is never lost, in all of this difference of belief and opinion, one thing remains constant, we are all people, created equal in the sight of God, irrespective of colour, nationality, sexuality, age or any other defining differences. This means that dignity is for all and that respect and forgiveness are things that we should all strive to show others. It is when we show these things to others that community is strengthened for the benefit of every member. This is as true as a school as it is in our local area, our country and even globally. Put simply it means that we must "love our neighbour" (Mark 12:31).

I pray that for each of you, this year will be a year filled with a widening hope and deep expectations.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Lisa McVeigh'. The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large loop at the end.

Lisa McVeigh
Principal