

Monday 5th December 2016

Dear Parents and Carers

We are coming to the end of the longest and busiest term. As I write this, with less than nine school days left, there is still much to do. The Year 11 mock exams have been completed, staff are busy marking and returning papers, and we still have several productions to take place before we close for Christmas.

End of Term

The academy finishes at 12.15pm next Friday 16th December and we re-open to students on Wednesday 4th January.

Assessments

Year 10, 12 and 13 will receive a grade card by the end of term. Year 11 will receive their mock exam results in an envelope on the last day of term. A full written report for Year 11 students will be sent home at the end of January.

Grade cards for Years 10, 12 and 13 will be emailed to the parents' home email addresses and the students' school email addresses. Test emails were sent in the week of 28th November; if you did not receive one please check your junk mail and then email datachecking@boa-academy.co.uk. Please also email this address if you have not received the grade card by Wednesday 14th December. Year 11 mock results will also be emailed to parents. Again, if there are any issues, please use the email address above.

Year 11 will sit second mock exams for Maths, English and Science in February.

Performances, Trips and Work with Creative Industry Partners

All students, at some time, work with our creative industry partners. There are far too many to mention in a letter but if you look at my blog on the BOA website (<https://goo.gl/PeFC47>) the entry for this term will give you an insight into many things that have happened and are happening.

Many lessons at BOA have industry professionals teaching students. Sometimes this is not translated to home so parents do not always see that their son/daughter has been given this exposure to the industry. Visiting practitioners can sometimes be perceived as just another teacher. Please look at the VLE to see the visiting practitioners. A login to the VLE for parents was sent out earlier in the year.

Make the Most of the Opportunities

At BOA, students are given opportunities to be involved in numerous events. They are advertised and often open to all students. We don't make involvement mandatory but they are great networking events and platforms to showcase talent. Please support your child in seizing the opportunities on offer.

Part-Time Work

Some Post-16 students are working too many hours. They are in full time education and that demands full time study and full time independent study. I am increasingly seeing students whose part time jobs are having a detrimental effect on their work and not giving them any time to participate in the opportunities mentioned in the paragraph above.

Website and VLE

I hope you are a regular visitor to both the website and VLE. I post a monthly blog which highlights past activities. Please check key dates for exams, Parents' Evening and performances on the website.

Should we have a spate of bad weather and snow closures, information will be posted on the website and other forms of social media.

Please remember our catchment area is vast. It stretches from Oxford to Manchester, Shropshire to Northampton/Derbyshire. You will obviously need to decide for yourselves whether the local forecast is too dangerous for your child to travel. We will alert you if BOA has to close. However, we do understand there may be snow in Shropshire or Bicester, but none in Birmingham.

We use a text messaging service to alert you if your child is not in school (this will also be used if we have to close the Academy for any reason). You must ensure we have up to date contact details.

Uniform and Lanyards

A reminder that **all** students must wear their lanyard and be in full uniform.

Old Rep Seats

Please, please, please. We need your help in dedicating/sponsoring a seat. The Old Rep provides a training ground for the majority of students at BOA. It will be used by all the performing arts students, the technical theatre arts students as well as the broadcast/media students, to film the content.

It is an incredible resource but we need to ensure it is viable. A brilliant Christmas present! To dedicate a seat please go to <https://www.ticketsource.co.uk/boa> or email seating@oldreptheatre.co.uk for more details.

Change of Circumstances

Please inform us if your circumstances change. If parents separate, we need the contact details of both parents unless one is prohibited from contact. It is really important to inform us if there is a court order denying access.

Please ensure all contact details are up to date.

Party Season

Sometimes at parties there are incidents or fallouts between students. As parents, please resolve these issues as amicably as possible between yourselves. BOA is not responsible for students' behaviour at such events and will not be part of the resolution.

Dates

Spring term is Wednesday 4th January to Friday 17th February.

Half term is Monday 20th February to Friday 24th February.

27th February to 3rd March is Aptitude Week. During this week, Year 10 will go on work experience, Year 11 will be at BOA for a mock exam week and Year 12 and 13 will not be at BOA but will be set work to complete.

Year 11 Parents' Evening is Thursday 9th February 2017

Year 10 Parents' Evening is Thursday 9th March 2017

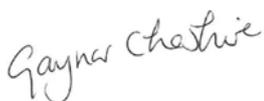
Year 12 Parents' Evening is Thursday 16th March 2017

Staff Changes

Mr M Gardener, Musical Director, is leaving us at the end of term. Mrs A Chapman, Director of Musical Theatre, starts on 3rd January.

Have a very happy Christmas and I hope 2017 will be happy, healthy and successful for your family.

Yours sincerely



Gaynor Cheshire
Principal