

3 April 2008

Dear Parents/Carers

I find it almost unbelievable that we are at the end of our second term – the Academy year is passing so quickly. I hope that, like me, you feel the Academy has made good progress over the last seven months. The work the students are doing across the departments indicates a great deal of progress has been made.

It was good to be in church to celebrate Easter and reflect on the great gift God has given us through the resurrection of his Son, Jesus Christ. Those of you who were there will also have been moved by our Chaplain's talk, which gave a very personal account of his own "Easter Day" experience.

Everyone who saw this year's fantastic Shakespeare performances of *Romeo and Juliet* was amazed by the quality of the production, the acting, the dancing and the speaking. Well done to all involved. If you were unable to come this year, make sure you reserve a seat for *Henry V* next year.

I am pleased to announce that we have made the following appointments of new staff into the Academy:

Director of Primary	Mrs J Parke
Leading Teacher: Economics & Business Studies	Mrs C Thompson
Leading Teacher: Chemistry	Ms B Kaur
Leading Teacher: Religious Studies	Mr P Bentham
Leading Teacher: Girl's PE	Ms A McNestry
Leading Teacher: Mandarin	Ms J Buster

All these staff will take up their posts on 1 September. We have also appointed an Academy Librarian, Ms E Wallace, who will start on 21 April.

I have been really pleased with the quality of the applications for these posts and I am sure they will all make a significant contribution to the development of the Academy.

There are three items I need to bring urgently to your attention:

1. Pick up and drop off – I am aware of the difficulties of bringing your children to the Academy, but as a road user your first priority should be the safety of others. Some of the actions of parents are actually putting lives at risk. They include double parking, dropping children on the roadside, rather than the kerbside, reversing onto the pavement, and preventing the community transport bus from unloading and collecting our disabled students. I would encourage all of you who feel you are able to let your sons and daughters walk to the Academy to do this, as the days are getting longer and lighter.

2. Lateness to the Academy – The legislation has changed with regard to lateness. Parents whose children are persistently late will now be liable for a fixed penalty fine. Persistently late is defined as 12 times in any six-week period. Lateness is not a significant issue in the Academy and I am writing to inform you of this change and encourage you all to keep up the good work!

3. Year 7 action planning – On Tuesday 29 April there will be some time allocated in the afternoon for each student to meet with their Academy Guardian to review the action plan they wrote in September and agree new targets. These meetings will take place from 2.15 to 4.45pm, and your child will be allocated a 10 minute meeting slot. Ms Kneller will write to you after the spring break to explain the details, but this is to warn you in advance that your child may finish school early on that day, as each student will be allowed to leave after his/her meeting.

With my best wishes for a peaceful and relaxing spring break.

Yours sincerely

Paul Hollingum
Principal

Dates for the Summer Term

Summer term begins	Mon 21 April 2008
May Day Bank Holiday	Mon 5 May 2008
Return to the Academy	Tues 6 May 2008
Primary department Inset Day only	Fri 23 May 2008
Summer half term break	26-30 May 2008
Return to the Academy	Mon 2 June 2008
Whole Academy Inset Day	Fri 20 June 2008
Academy production of Joseph at The Union Chapel	Weds 16 July 2008
End of Summer term	Weds 23 July 2008