

HIGH STANDARDS, HIGH ASPIRATIONS, HIGH EXPECTATIONS

26th September 2024

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Dear Parent/Carers,

I can't quite believe that this letter comes to you at the halfway point of this first term. The time has flown by (yet the recent weather definitely makes the summer feel a very distant memory). I hope that all of our students have settled back into the academic year strongly and hope that, in particular, our Year 7 students are finding their feet and adjusting to their new setting.

The first few weeks of term are always a whirlwind of administration as we implement the new timetable for the year, settle into those routines and ensure everyone knows what they are doing. However, I still wanted to write to bring you a few messages from these first few weeks.

Summer 2024 Results – Although the GCSE Results of August do seem like some time ago already, I realise I haven't updated families on them yet. It always takes a few weeks for the full picture to emerge and we won't know until the end of next month how our results stack up against schools across the country. However, early indications show that our P8 score (Progress 8 score which is the main indicator used to measure the impact of an individual school on the cohort of students who sat their exams in the summer) is likely to be our **best ever** with a figure in excess of +0.6. Although we cannot be certain until the national data is published, to give an indication, the best figure in Bristol in Summer 2023 was +0.57. A score of +0.6 would have put us into the *Top 10%* of school performance *nationally*. This is a real testament to the commitment and hard work of our students and families last year (supported of course by their teachers and academy staff). Of course, the challenge now for our current students is rising to the challenge that their previous Year 11 peers have set them but, as I recently talked to them about in Assembly, I know they will rise to that challenge.

Open Evening – Last night saw our annual Open Evening. Despite the very wet start to the evening we had over 700 visitors come to have a look around across the evening. I wanted to say a massive 'Thank You' to all students who gave up their evenings to support as tour guides or as helpers in departments. We had well over 100 students give up their time to represent the Academy. An extra large Well Done to Paige and Darya in Year 11 along with Maeve and Alwin in Year 8 for standing up in front of several hundred visitors each time to be part of the Principal's Talk. I really do know how much confidence it takes to do that and was blown away by how well you represented yourselves and the Academy.

Food Technology Voluntary Contributions – You will have recently received [this letter](#) outlining a request for a voluntary contribution of £5 per child per year (Year 7 to Year 9) in lieu of asking students to bring in their own ingredients for food technology lessons. Thank you to any families that have made payment so far. This is just a reminder please for families, who are able to, please make payment via ParentPay as soon as possible to cover the 2024-25 year so that the DT department can plan their practical sessions.

Parent Councillor Vacancy – We have a vacant post for Parent Councillor as part of our Academy Council (often called a Governing Body or being a Governor). Please see [this letter](#) if you wish to find out more and if you would like to put yourself forward as a potential candidate.



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Book Donations – Thank you to the anonymous family who recently donated the pile of books below. We don't know who you are but Ms Goldswain, our amazing Librarian, is very grateful. On that note, if any other families are ever having a clear out of books that are in good condition but surplus to requirements, please feel free to send them to us. You can either drop them into Reception (7:30am to 4pm each day) or ask your child to drop them into the Library. Ms Goldswain will happily take them off your hands and add them to our library stock. Any books that we don't need or use are passed to charity.



I hope the next few weeks go well for all of our families. Monday is the launch of 'Black History Month' in the Academy and I will share some of the exciting activities that are happening throughout October as we head towards the end of this first term.

Yours sincerely

Cameron Shaw
Principal