

HIGH STANDARDS, HIGH ASPIRATIONS, HIGH EXPECTATIONS

7th February 2023

Dear Parent/Carers,

I cannot quite believe it is both February and nearly the end of term already. With T1 and T2 both being those longer terms it means that when the shorter terms come around, they really do fly by. Our Year 7 students are now half way through their first year with us; our Year 11 students are getting ever closer to the end of their time (but still with plenty of time).

A slightly sombre note to start with as you will have seen the devastating news over the last 24hrs about the large earthquake in the east of Turkey and the border of Syria. We have a number of families in our community with links to those areas and we send our thoughts at this difficult time. If any students are affected and need any additional support, please do encourage them to speak to their House or the Safeguarding team.

And now a Thank You - thank you for the patience and for the support shown by many families during the day of industrial action called by the NEU. We know that any unexpected closure of schools is difficult for students and families but the number of positive and supportive messages received from the community was very humbling. The next scheduled day of action is Thursday 2nd March (and then potentially Wednesday 15th and Thursday 16th March). We will communicate the impact and plans for these days as soon as we have any updates.

This week is National Apprenticeship Week. Apprenticeships are a massively varied suite of qualifications and routes into professions. Apprenticeships have long been associated with many industries but they have really broadened over the last decade and are now available in almost every industry. If you, or your child, would like to find out more about apprenticeship pathways please have a look at the document slinked below.

National Apprenticeship Week - [Apprenticeships.pdf \(clf.uk\)](#)

Letter to parents - [NAW2023 Skills Minister Letter Parents \(govdelivery.com\)](#)

Letter to students - [NAW2023 Skills Minister Letter YP \(govdelivery.com\)](#)

We have had a couple of occasions recently where students who are unwell have directly contacted a parent/carer and asked to be picked up. This then leads to confusion when parents/carers arrive in Reception to collect their child and Reception know nothing about it. We will be reminding students of the need to speak to their House Team if they feel they need to go home but we are also asking for your support in working together. If you receive a direct message or call from your child and you feel they need to be collected please ring Reception on 0117 377 2700 **before** you make the journey to the Academy so that we can ensure your child is ready to be collected. This will then prevent parents/carers from having to hang around unnecessarily whilst we arrange for your child to come to Reception. This is particularly the case at social times as it is a large site. Please be assured that we would never agree to a child going home ill without first contacting you directly ourselves.

Finally, some nice updates to finish the term...

Fencing Competition – on Saturday 28th January 6 fencers from the BMA team travelled to participate in their latest tournament. All performed admirably with Mary and Darya both securing a Silver medal. Thank you, as always, to Mr Cooley for giving up his weekend time to enable these competitions and to Miss Pine-Smith for accompanying him on this occasion.



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Eco club pond – the eco club have been continuing to construct their wildlife pond and wildlife area and will be adding lots of exciting bug hotels and habitats to the areas in coming months. It has been lovely seeing this develop over the last few months. Well done to all of the staff and students as this club has gone from strength to strength.

We finish at normal time this coming Friday, 10th February. Next week is the term end break. Monday, 20th February is a scheduled INSET for staff and therefore **all students** start back at 8:30am on **Tuesday, 21st February**.

I wish all of our families a restful break next week.

Yours sincerely

Cameron Shaw
Principal

