

**HIGH STANDARDS, HIGH ASPIRATIONS, HIGH EXPECTATIONS**

9<sup>th</sup> October 2020

Dear Parents/Carers,

This week's update is relatively short as we enter Week 6 of this first term back in the Academy.

Firstly, I mentioned last week about safety, both in terms of 'stranger danger' as the days get darker as well as road safety. This week I specifically wanted to mention cycles as we received a few concerns from community members last week specifically around bikes. Whilst I appreciate it is not the law there are a number of students who cycle to the Academy who don't wear a helmet. It would be great to see all students wearing a helmet given how substantially different any accident can be without one. Please also ensure your child has working brakes on their bike, particularly since the entrance from Snowdon Road involves descending a fairly steep drive. Finally, as we are talking about bikes, a reminder again to please ensure that bikes are secured with a high quality lock (preferably a D-Lock style as these cannot be cut). Whilst we secure the bike sheds during the day they do, of course, have to be unlocked at the start and end of the day and periodically we see a small number of bike thefts. Of course I wish we could all leave things insecure and expect them to not be taken but we know that, sadly, that is not realistic and therefore a good quality lock will prevent disappointment and inconvenience to students and their families.

I have also spoken to students today about what seems to be a new "craze" which involves a small number of students slapping each other around the neck or back of the head. I have made it clear to students that this is not acceptable, that it is not a game and that anyone doing it risks being accused of assault. I would appreciate this message being reinforced by parents to ensure that all students are safe and well.

Finally, we launched a week long competition today called "Free your Feet". It is a national competition that is running this week encouraging as many students as possible to walk to school and, where that isn't possible due to distance, to at least walk part of the way by either getting on or off the bus earlier/later or being dropped off part of the way and walking the rest. All students who walk this week will be able to enter themselves into a prize draw. This week looks like it will be a wet week so ensure that students are well wrapped up when taking part in the challenge!

I may not write every week but thought parents would appreciate updates in what were the first few weeks of reopening. I will try not to bombard you with communications though.

Thank you for your continued support during these difficult times.

Yours sincerely and best wishes,



Mr C Shaw  
Principal